

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.



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A. B. ALLEN and R. L. ALLEN, late Editors of the American Agriculturist, will be regular contributors to the Plow; also, Professor Norton, Dr. Antisel, L. F. Allen, and others, late correspondents of the Agriculturist.

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REMINISCENCES OF CALIFORNIA—No. 2.

UNDER so intense an excitement as California has been suffering for the last three years, and from which she has just commenced recovering, everything like agriculture, (until quite recently,) was abolished, and the spade and pickaxe of the miner substituted; and in order to come at any correct estimate of the agricultural capabilities of that country, we must look at it as it was before the discovery of gold, and at the few more recent attempts in the same branch of enterprise.

Watered, as the country is, by so many beautiful running streams, and having so mild and short winters, it will be seen at once, that it is well adapted to grazing, and that its many fertile river bottoms, or prairie meadows, must furnish splendid pasturage for immense herds of cattle and horses. Indeed, for this purpose, it cannot be surpassed, if equaled, by any country on the Atlantic side of the continent. The soil is various; being, on the mountains and high hills, very rocky and sterile, but in the valleys, extremely rich and fertile. It is estimated by some, that the lands of two-thirds of the state are fit for cultivation; but, from my own observation, I should think this to be an over estimate—perhaps the agricultural and pasturable lands together might make up this proportion—the rest is of extreme barrenness and sterility, little else than barren rocks.

The climate and soil are particularly adapted to the growing of small grains, such as wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, &c. Corn does not thrive so well here as in the countries bordering on the Atlantic, owing to coolness of the night. I have never passed a night in the country during a two years' residence, when I was uncomfortably warm with a blanket rolled snugly around me. Fruits, such as the apple, pear, peach, grape, cherry, orange, dates, figs, melons, &c., can be raised here successfully.

Many of the grains grow here spontaneously, and it is not uncommon to see plains containing hundreds of acres, covered with the wild oats of the country, (not having quite so heavy a grain as our cultivated varieties,) sometimes to the astonishing height of ten, twelve, or even fifteen feet, with a stalk over half an inch in diameter—usually, however, about four feet high, with a proportionate-sized stalk. Many of the small plains and hill-sides are covered with a red and white clover, peculiar to the country, which, owing to the dry weather, forms, in the latter part of summer, a very nutritious kind of hay, much sought after by the various herds of ani-

mals. Flax, very similar to that grown in the Atlantic States, is also found among the natural productions.

The variety of wheat sown here, is that termed the "wheat of Taos," having three or four distinct heads. The average crop is about 40 bushels to the acre. It is generally grown without irrigation, being sown during the months of November and December, and harvested in the succeeding May or June. Tobacco is grown in the southern section with much success, and is said to yield as plentifully as in Cuba.

Among the berries, strawberries and "Man-sinitas," (Spanish, meaning little apples, being a berry,) are, perhaps, the most abundant, although blackberries, currants, &c., are found in some localities. It needs only that the gold mania should subside, for California to fall back upon her natural resources, to bring her out in her true colors, and with an enterprising population to have her stand forth in bold relief upon the western shores of America.

In manufactures, California has never done anything, if we except a few saw-mills, and one or two small mills for grinding and flouring wheat; but when attention shall be turned to this subject, it must be a very prominent enterprise of the country. Nearly all of the tributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, on the eastern slope of the great valley, head in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains, and furnish any quantity of water power desirable. Every article, (timber and stone,) necessary to construct good and substantial dams across these streams, is obtainable upon the very banks. Situated as is the country, upon the same ocean that washes the eastern shores of the other continent, and the East Indies, the market for most articles of manufacture must always be good and durable, and there is nothing in the perspective to prevent California from becoming, not only an agricultural, but also a manufacturing state.

Notwithstanding, however, what may be the facilities for commerce, agriculture, or for manufactures, possessed by California, it will yet be a long time before she will, or can, recover from the effects of the late golden discovery in her territory. It has commenced, already, to throw off this unnatural excitement, and many are leaving the mines and turning their attention to the different pursuits or callings which they followed at home. Still, as the victim of the intoxicating draught has been raised above an equilibrium, and, as of necessity, must fall

as much below it, to restore the equipoise, so must it be with California, and it will take some time to accomplish this. L. T. TALBOT.

COUNTRY HOUSES ON THE HUDSON RIVER.

WITHIN the past twelve years, the number of country houses for gentlemen, on the banks of the Hudson River have greatly increased, and the style of them has undergone an entire change. Formerly, there were very few, and most of them were in the Grecian portico style, with tall, two-story pillars in front, than which nothing is more ugly and absurd, in our estimation, for an American country house, and only to be tolerated in a large hotel. Now, handsome piazzas, supported by one-story pillars, surround three, and often four sides of an otherwise plain, though elegantly-built house, making it no less comfortable for hot weather than cold. In the summer it woos the breeze and affords a grateful shade; in the winter it forms a dry and delightful promenade, especially for ladies. Then we have the chaste Italian, with its sheltered porch, airy balconies, shady verandas, cool, projecting roof, and lofty campanile or tower; the castellated Gothic, with its frowning turrets, donjon keep, and portcullis; the cottage *orné*, of great variety of style, picturesque chimneys, bracketed roof, bow windows, *port cochère*, verandas and piazzas, all surrounded with ornamented grounds, lending a variety and finished beauty to the landscape, of which before it was nearly destitute.

Of the country houses recently erected on the Hudson, the most magnificent which we have visited, is that of Edwin Bartlett, Esq., a wealthy retired merchant of this city. It stands on the east bank of the river, about two miles above Tarrytown, on a commanding situation, and is built entirely of massive, dark-grey stone, found in the immediate neighborhood. It is 120 feet in length, and of a corresponding width, with lofty turrets, a high tower, and noble *port cochère*. The style is unique, for the United States, being a mixed old English, harmonising admirably with the bold, picturesque scenery around. But we hold in reserve a full description of this house and its beautiful grounds—just blocked out—together with the classic dell of Sleepy Hollow; where, according to the veracious sketches of the renowned Geoffrey Crayon, on dark, gusty nights, strides the terrific headless horseman, dread punisher of love-presuming pedagogues. We only wish to speak of one thing now about this mansion, which, on inspecting it, highly gratified us; and that is,

while Mr. B. has provided amply, and even luxuriantly for his own family and guests, he has not forgotten the comfort of his domestics. Their rooms for cooking, washing, &c., and chambers are large, and well ventilated, and abound with every convenience—even baths are provided in the latter, to ensure greater comfort, health, and neatness.

Mrs. Bartlett took no little pride in showing us her noble cows; and we dare say, when the pleasure grounds are duly planted, flowers, shrubbery, and trees will not alone be their ornament; but that groups of improved animals will be found gamboling there, adding life and animation to the scenery around. It is in this particular, that the ornamental grounds of English gentlemen greatly excel those of other nations, and are so much the more admired. To our eye, a noble park or pleasure grounds are in a measure desolate without domestic animals of some kind, grazing upon them.

THE MAGUEY OF MEXICO.

UNDER this name, two plants are known in Mexico, the one being the far-famed *Agave americana*, or century aloe, and the other a species of the genus aloe itself, the distinctive characteristics of which I shall soon be prepared to delineate. These two plants have hitherto been confused by most writers, arising, probably, from the fact that both are simultaneously called maguey by the Mexicans. Nevertheless, their characteristics are quite different in several points, and they can be readily distinguished by any observer. The agave flourishes in the coldest districts of Mexico, but the aloe requires the *Terras Calientes* or warmest regions of that country for its full development. The pulque, a well known common drink of the natives, is made from the agave only; but the mescal, a spirituous liquor as strong and as excitant as brandy, and produced by distillation, is obtained from both the species indiscriminately, and they are consequently often grown intermingled in the same field. The leaves are seven to eight feet long, and the plants are ranged in immense fields at six to seven feet asunder. We everywhere found these two plants in extensive use among the native Indians and mestizoes. Strangers to Mexico have but little knowledge of the extent to which the culture of the maguey is carried in that country. There are thousands of acres devoted to its culture, for the purpose of distillation principally, and for the fabrication of cordage of all sizes, suited to the wants of the country. Even

fine shoe thread and fishing lines are made from the leaves, and coarse paper is also manufactured from them. The pulque is only made in the higher and cooler regions of Mexico, the hot regions not being so favorable; but the mescal is distilled throughout every part of that country. I noticed many low mountains which were planted to their summits with the two species of maguey and others where it seemed that they were growing spontaneously, or with little or no culture. They are also planted along the roads as hedges, and very generally, as division fences to the fields, for which purpose they are perfectly appropriate.

Both the aloe and agave arrive at maturity for distillation in five to seven years, and the fields are then cut up and renewed by resetting them with the numerous young offsets which have sprung up around the plants. There is no kind of culture in that country which is so greatly remunerative as the plantations of these species; and they would be highly important acquisitions to our most southern states, and would serve to divert profitably a portion of the great excess of labor now devoted to the culture of cotton, one third of which is absolutely lost to our southern planters by the redundancy of the present cotton crops, beyond the actual wants of the world, and the consequent depreciation in price forced upon their staple, by the speculating manufacturers and bankers of Great Britain.

The maguey may be successfully cultivated in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Florida, New Mexico, and part of California.

I will here make a passing remark, although its purport is not new to most of your readers, which is, that the Century Aloe, or Agave Americana, which was so named from the erroneous supposition that it blooms but once in a century, produces its blossoms during the fifth or sixth year of its growth. The flower stems are 27 to 30 feet in height, crowned with an immense panicle of straw-colored flowers, and present a grand and unrivalled display. I have on repeated occasions counted over fifty of these splendid plants in full bloom in a single field, there being often from 25 to 30 acres of them within view.

The Agave Americana is much cultivated in Yucatan, and from its leaves is manufactured the well known Sisal Hemp. This species was introduced to the southern part of Florida some years since, by Mr. Perrine, but has not been subjected to extensive culture there. I have

taken some pains to procure seeds, and have them growing successfully in my grounds.

WM. R. PRINCE.

Flushing, L. I., Sept., 1851.

FARMING IN MISSOURI.

Growing Sweet Corn.—We extract the following from a business letter of an agricultural friend of ours in Missouri:

"I have to thank you for the corn which you sent me last spring. I planted it in due time, and made by far the finest crop of sweet corn I have ever seen, and I much doubt whether it has ever been excelled. Many ears grew to from six to eight or nine inches long, and were very large. I preserved a large quantity of it for winter use, and have saved a great deal for seed. I shall soil with it. I was not quite so fortunate with the Tuscarora corn. The ground upon which I planted it is very level, and it suffered not only in consequence of the tremendous rains which fell, but also for want of work. The ground was too wet throughout the season. Its yield was immense, but much of the first planting rotted. How is it? I raised many ears, full three times as large as any you sent me. I supposed it to be a small corn. I have put up a magnificent parcel for seed, and have several bushels left, of which I shall make bread. You would be amused to hear me brag about it.

Dutton Corn.—The same hand writes of this variety:—In relation to this Dutton corn, I got a friend to bring me three ears. I planted it about the 20th of April, in drills, the rows about three feet apart. It was about fifteen inches apart in the drill, two to three plants in a place. It commenced tasseling at from eighteen inches to two feet in height. Some grew taller before tasseling. I was discouraged, and paid little attention to it afterwards. The wire-worm was very destructive among it too. I went into it about the middle of August, and was surprised to find that it had matured, and that a great deal had rotted, being covered with weeds and grass, and the weather having been excessively wet and hot. It is a beautiful corn. There were many stalks not more than six feet high, that had two good ears; I found some over a foot long. It was ready for cutting up, by the first of August.

How does this compare with what it does with you? The grains are full and plump, and closely set upon the cob. Its average length on plants which escaped the ravages of the worm, was from nine to eleven inches. I think I shall plant an acre or so next season.

Tuscarora Corn.—I shall plant two or three acres, or perhaps more, of the Tuscarora. I shall make my roasting ears, and do my soiling with the sweet corn. It is quite a treat among us, and the merits of the different kinds have been much discussed. I am very proud of it all, but shall take my stand with the Tuscarora. Bread made of it will suit me best, as it has no oil, and then its growth is rapid. It was the most beautiful corn, until it was injured by the rains, that I have ever seen; it vegetated quickly, grew off with great rapidity, and was the deepest green imaginable. I think too that I can challenge any corn we have for product, except, perhaps, some very large corn which I have been improving for years. Of this last mentioned corn, I feel confident that I shall be able to select ears, forty or forty-five of which will shell a bushel. It is planted three by three feet, two stalks to the hill. The size of the ears is hardly credible, but it shall be weighed and shelled in the presence of witnesses.

Parsnips.—I do not know the size, or rather the length of the parsnips. The last I pulled up were sixteen inches long; that was early in July. Their diameter is three to three and one-half inches; the ground was made rich, and subsoiled.

Lucern.—I put the lucern in drills one foot apart. The ground is completely covered with it. The plants are of every length, from one to three feet. The first rows were sown too thin, I have some seed left, will they vegetate next spring? [Yes. Eds.] I have some parsnip seed left, will that vegetate? [Doubtful. Eds.]

Buckwheat.—I have a fine crop of buckwheat growing for seed. If I fail either in that or parsnips, I shall charge it to your account. I will let you off with the lucern, because you told me in advance that it would not do here. But why did you tempt me by sending the seed? Will it fail tho'? Remember that the ground is now perfectly covered by it, and that many of the plants are two to three feet long. True there is present a great deal of clay, but I nullified that to a great extent, with charcoal, ashes, leather, wool, woolen-rags and other things. I have kept the weeds out. What can I do now? Remember this is my pet crop, tell me if you please, what to do this fall and next spring. Shall I get gypsum, put on more charcoal, or both, or what? [Either, or both will be good. Ed.] I have the coal.

How to Make Charcoal for Farming Purposes.—**Tomfoolery.**—I piled up the brush of three acres of ground last spring, covered it with straw

and dirt, and charred it all in a single heap. I had some bones in it too. They call this tomfoolery and book farming, here, because I learned it from your paper. I find this coal useful to keep down odors about my stable, woolheaps, and other places which usually send forth their pestiferous breath upon the atmosphere we breathe.

Experiments at Fertilising Missouri Land.—I have done a great deal this season with the sole view of fertilising my land. I turned under four acres of fine clover as I have ever seen grow. I immediately sowed corn on the same ground, with the intention of turning that under, but it is so badly blown down, that I cannot well do it. I must cut it up. It will make me a fine parcel of food, and has served to keep the sun from scorching the ground. I have turned under some rye, and several acres of buckwheat; and shall turn under more wheat shortly. The ground has always washed badly, and will continue to do so. Had I not better construct some side-hill ditches to prevent it? Please give me your good advice, always bearing in mind, that a little labor for the purpose of improving my land, is more a matter of amusement than otherwise. [There is no method, in our opinion, to preserve side hill land, equal to a thorough and complete system of ditching, and cultivation of all crops on a level; that is, the ditch falls three inches in ten feet, and the furrows in plowing always level. See our remarks upon this subject in late numbers of the *Agriculturist*. Eds.] I shall not mind the labor. Will it preserve the land?

—••—
IMPORTANT TO WESTERN FARMERS.

THE following article from the *Journal of Commerce* is recommended to your particular attention.

The great abundance and cheapness of Indian Corn in the West is the cause of so much actual slovenliness in hauling and preparing it for market. This was somewhat pardonable when it was only worth 8 to 10 cts. a bushel at home, and no facilities to send it abroad for a better market. But that day is past. Improvement in transportation has put the rich provisions of Indiana and Illinois within two days of New York, and farmers must mend their old ways:

Indian Corn.—Some months since we called the attention of our Western friends to the fact, that a large portion of the corn coming forward from that section was damaged, for want of care in preparing it for market. As the season is approaching when a new crop is to be housed,

we again refer to the subject, in the hope of an improvement for the coming year. Western mixed corn has been selling here for the last few days at 58 to 60 cents for sound parcels, and 43 to 54 cents for heated, very little of the latter bringing over 50 cents. The average difference between heated and sound corn, taking the extremes into account, is about 5 cents per bushel. Now let it be remembered that there is no difference in the corn when first harvested, and the importance of the subject will be manifest. The corn when picked, should be placed in cribs, raised a foot or more from the ground, with a narrow base, swelling on each side towards the eaves, and roofed so as to be perfectly water-tight. Much corn is damaged on the cob by exposure to storms, or for want of air when drying. The corn should not be shelled until it is to be sent to market; it should then be thoroughly fanned or cleaned from chaff, as the presence of this substance is one of the principal causes of its heating in coming forward. Even when corn passes as strictly merchantable on arrival, it will heat on a voyage to Europe, unless perfectly clean when sent aboard. More than two thirds of the Western corn which has come forward this season, has proved unsound, simply for want of precaution on the part of the original owners.

There is another point connected with this subject, where an amendment would give increased value to the product; but perhaps it would be impossible to affect it. We allude to the mixture which gives its name to most of the Western corn in market. Yellow or white, when sold separately, will average, one month with another, about 2 cents per bushel each more than mixed, which is but the same corn thrown together. The white is wanted for a different market, and the yellow is much more attractive when placed by itself.

NEW JERSEY HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

THIS was held this year at Jersey City. Notwithstanding the drouth and other nupropitious circumstances, the show of fruits and vegetables was a very creditable one.

"I am very glad," remarked a gentleman in our presence, to his daughters, "to see so many premiums awarded to our fruits. It is such a stimulant toward improvement to our gardeners."

No comment is necessary to prove the value of these exhibitions. They promote to improvement. It is a pity that all lovers of good fruit cannot see how much they might promote this improvement, by merely visiting exhibi-

tions and contributing something towards premiums to the men who toil to produce such fruit as gladdens the eye, and makes those who succeed in growing it, proud of having it praised in the exhibition room—it stimulates them to try to provide better, and better still. This is what these shows are for, and why they should be visited by those most interested.

FLAX COTTON.

WE take early opportunity to call attention to this subject, as winter is the time to prepare for spring. Growing flax for manufacturing on a large scale in this country, by the new process of preparing it so as to resemble cotton, is firmly believed to be practicable by a great many persons. It seems by the following notice in an Ohio paper, that that state is leading off in the true spirit of a go-a-head people:—

"HON. JOHN F. BEAVER, of Newton Falls, is now engaged in the erection of machinery for the preparation of flax cotton. The editor of the Warren Whig visited him a few days since, and says:—

Mr. B. is sanguine of the ultimate success of the scheme for the substitution of flax in place of cotton. He showed us a specimen of the cotton after the third process. It resembles in color and texture the common lint, made by tearing up a piece of old linen cloth. Five processes are necessary to prepare the flax cotton for the spindles. I learned from Mr. B. that twice as much flax has been raised in the neighborhood of Newton Falls this year as there was last. In passing from there to Ravenna, beautiful fields of flax, in full bloom, were common along the road.

CHARACTER OF BOYS.

Boys make a sad mistake, when they learn to chew, and smoke, and drink, and swear, because they think it manly. I made the same mistake forty years ago; but with grey hairs cometh wisdom, and now I shun such a boy as I would a wild animal. It is a great mistake to think any of those *accomplishments* are manly. Such boys are never admired by good men, lovely women or lovable girls.

Boys make a sad mistake, when they get mad with the horses, oxen, cows, or other poor dumb animals, and beat, and bruise, and kick, and scold and swear at them; if they think by so doing they will be able to control them any better, or tame their anger or intractableness while trying to teach them how to perform some of the operations on the farm. "A soft

answer turneth away wrath;" so does a soft word to a dumb brute.

Boys make a sad mistake, when they think a city life is so much happier and more pleasant than theirs upon their father's farm, where they have so many of the real substantial comforts of life, that boys in the city never enjoy.

THE TRAVELLER.—No. 8.

We approach Athens, literally, by railroad, as mentioned in my last from Union Point; we do nothing more, for the terminus of the road is upon one hill and the town upon another, half a mile off, a deep valley and mill-stream intervening. Upon this stream are cotton and paper mills. This part of Georgia was designed by nature for a manufacturing district, and in the hands of a New England population, would be made so in a very short time. The country is a high, granite, hilly region, with numerous rapid, rocky streams, with a salubrious climate; while the soil, generally, is not the kind to delight a southern planter, for the reason it requires a different mode of tillage from that which they have long practiced, to the destruction of some of the most fertile spots in the state.

The whole soil of this part of the state seems to be rocks turned to dust—doomed to decay—for it is made up of decomposed granite—the color and strata of the rock and the veins of gneiss, are seen in the clay in the same position as when all was solid rock. Wherever granite rocks are found in place, there may be seen the decay still progressing.

Every body condemns the soil around Athens as poor. I grant that it is not as rich as the bottomlands of the Chattahoochee, yet it is far better than some portions of Massachusetts, which are worth a hundred dollars per acre for farming purposes. The surface of the country is very uneven, and liable to wash, and has been greatly injured in that way, and will be greatly more injured unless the system of side-hill ditching is adopted: not the little miserable affairs which have been attempted upon some farms I visited, but a most thorough and complete work, of large and strong ditches, so as completely to prevent the water from coursing down the cultivated hill-sides, as it has done ever since the country was settled by the whites.

There is a spot within the town cyleped, a botanical garden. I believe it belongs to the college—an institution of some notoriety here—and a more romantic, beautiful spot to improve is rarely seen. An expenditure of three or four thousand dollars, instead of the scanty pittance

doled out to the gardener, who seems to be a man of taste, would make this garden a place for the Athenians to be proud of. There is an unfortunate lack of this kind of public spirit of improvement and beautifying towns, in nearly all of them at the south. It is not for want of individual spirit, for that abounds and shows itself in the adornment of a great many private mansions, of which, and of a high-bred, refined population, Athens may proudly boast.

Much as the soil is decried, I found wherever it is treated to a deep cultivation, with manure, it always pays for such attention. It is the very home of peaches and most kinds of fruit. This has been demonstrated pretty well by Dr. Ward, who is a scientific gentleman, devoted to horticulture and the cultivation of fine fruits.

The natural growth of timber, which always affords some indication of the quality of soil, upon the hill land, is oak, hickory, and short leaf pine: on the bottoms, poplar, ash, gum, &c.—the whole once covered with cane. I generally make it a point in visiting places, to enter as much as possible into conversation with those who cultivate the soil, upon the best manner of improving it, and increasing their crops, with a view to obtain and impart information. I found here, one man of a class I have often met before, who insists that cast iron plows are the ruin of the land; that they turn the earth over and bury all the fertile portion so deep, nothing will grow afterwards. He fully believes the soil never should be stirred over two inches deep, and that the little, old fashioned shovel plow is the best ever invented. However, there are some of his neighbors who believe in using better tools, and it is to be hoped, that example may produce a good effect upon the next generation, if it does not upon the present one.

Cherokee Rose Hedge.—The name of this rose conveys the idea to many persons that here, in the country once occupied by that people, is its native home, and that it will flourish in all places of parallel latitude. It does grow and form a good fence, but is not to be depended upon. Dr. Camac told me that his father's hedge was killed to the ground in the winter of 1834, and '35, but grew again from the roots. In latitude 32°, in Mississippi, it was killed the same year so it never sprouted, except here and there a stalk. Although it forms one of the most impenetrable hedges, when in vigorous growth, it would never answer to depend upon a plant for general farming purposes, which is liable to be destroyed in one night of hard frost.

In mentioning the name of the late Dr. Ca-

mac, I cannot pass it by without leaving a slight tribute to his memory, as one who was alive to the importance of working a radical change in Southern cultivation, and teaching the people that agriculture was a science, which required study and improvement of the mind to improve the soil.

The people of the south owe a debt of gratitude to this good man, for the benefits they have derived from that excellent agricultural paper, *The Southern Cultivator*, for he was its founder. He also introduced a variety of choice fruits around his mansion in Athens, to demonstrate to the citizens how easily they might provide themselves with such luxuries, upon a soil and climate where they already enjoyed the still greater one of health.

Improvement of the Soil in this part of the state can be best and cheapest brought about by the use of lime, and peas as a substitute for clover, with the addition of some fertilizer, such as guano, bone-dust, or phosphate of lime, and an improved system of cultivation, with improved implements. A change for the better is already going on, and when the time comes that men cannot run off to the West to get new and cheap land, in some bilious swamp, then will these granite hills be appreciated at their real value, and these old broom-straw fields and pine barrens be restored to usefulness, and covered with a healthy, happy, wealthy population.

March 18th was a day worthy of the latitude of Quebec, but the cold did not stop the corn planting. The average yield of corn is estimated at ten bushels to the acre. The average yield of cotton, about 400 pounds, in the seed. It grows very small, say about two feet high, and is planted, on most of the lands, two and a half by three feet.

Col. Billups, one of the gentlemanly planters of Athens, whose hospitality I partook of, contends that side-hill ditches will not answer the purpose here, because the rain falls in such torrents, it fills up or sweeps them all away. That was the case upon his plantation five years ago. I contend, however, that if made as they should be at first, they will neither wash away nor fill up.

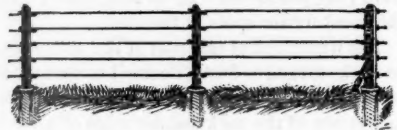
Light Crops of Oats.—I had supposed this a favorable soil for oats. But I have the authority of Dr. Hull, an intelligent planter, for saying that many of the fields sown do not average 500 lbs. straw and grain, all told. The probable reason is, the ground is so poor for want of manure, so shallow plowed for the want of better plows, that a few days of sun exhausts all the

moisture, and leaves the tender plants to struggle for life in a bed of dust, lying upon a foundation nearly as hard as brick.

Cultivation of Grass.—This is almost entirely neglected. I know the difficulty of making a hay crop in this climate, yet I cannot help thinking it may be profitably done upon many spots unfit for any other crop.

PHIPPS' IMPROVED PATENT WIRE FENCE.

By this improvement the great difficulty in the construction of wire fences—contraction and expansion, which has heretofore deterred farmers from building the cheapest and best fence ever brought into use—is entirely obviated, without adding to the expense. This contrivance is as simple as it is perfect. The wires, the best size of which is No. 4, one-fourth inch diameter, are made in twelve feet lengths, with peculiar shaped heads, which are inserted in the posts by springing them together, and when the line of fence is all up and drawn tight, no one of the bars can be taken out without loosening the tightening screws, and then the whole can be taken down and removed with great facility, or



WIRE FENCE.—FIG. 62.

any one pannel or rod can be taken out so as to form an opening through the fence. It will be observed, the power of contraction and expansion operates upon bars only twelve feet in length, each independent of the other, and so constructed that it does not affect the whole fence, but moves back and forth in the mortise of the post without becoming loose. The posts are made of flat bars of iron, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$, which may be fastened in the earth by setting them in blocks of stone, brick, or wood, or filling the hole bored to receive them, with rubble stone and lime grouting. It is recommended in each length of fifty pannels, to have a stout spiral spring to each wire, which will keep up the tension. After the fence is all up, it is fastened firmly to a well braced post at one end, and then drawn tight by screws at the other end, inserted in a wooden post so that they are not seen, thus obviating all objections to unsightly machinery. Another advantage of this fence is, that it is all prepared ready for putting together at the manufactory, so it can be set up by a common laborer. The patentee informs us, that it can be made and delivered, done up in

bundles ready for shipping, at a cost of one and a half to two and a half dollars a rod.

NORTH CAROLINA GRAPE CULTURE.

DR. WELLER of Brinkleyville, North Carolina, has favored us with a communication in answer to some remarks of Reviewer, which is too long for publication [in the *Agriculturist* at present, by which he shows that a vineyard can be made very profitable. His favorite grape, as it should be in all the south, is the *Skaupernong*, from which he made last year, some sixty barrels of wine. Some of his wine sells from \$4 to \$6, a gallon, and is highly approved.

His highest price Skaupernong wine is made by adding one third brandy distilled from juice of the same kind of grapes.

Skaupernong Hock is made without brandy, by adding three pounds refined sugar to the gallon. Skaupernong Champagne, is one-fourth brandy, with one pound of sugar to the gallon.

Dr. W. finds no difficulty in preserving his wines, or finding sales at fair prices, notwithstanding the prejudices of foreign wine dealers against anything in the shape of American wine. We are of opinion, notwithstanding Dr. W.'s practice, that it would be better to leave out the brandy and sugar, and let the wine be the pure juice of the grape. The vine growers in Ohio at first added brandy and sugar, but we believe now they generally reject these adjuncts, and produce a superior quality of wine by so doing.

ALDERNEY COWS.

We saw early in September, in their luxuriant Connecticut pastures, Alderney cows, imported by Messrs. Taintor & Buck, some two years since. We had before seen them, when just arrived from their European voyage, thin and gaunt from their long passage, and light in frame and bone from their customary breeding in the quiet vales of the Isle of Jersey. They appeared then almost haggard, and one or more of them did not survive their extreme hard voyage. The irresistible conclusion of the casual observer would have been, that they could scarcely possess sufficient merit to cover such apparently inherent scragginess. Yet a moderate degree of attention and good feed has spread these new comers into the most ample dimensions. We have seldom seen finer, nor do we care to see larger milking animals than these. They do not possess the symmetrical and rounded form that characterises the short-horns and Devons, nor can they probably ever rival them for the yoke or shambles. But for choice dairy animals, yielding rich sweet milk,

and deeply-yellow, finely-flavored, waxy butter, they cannot be excelled, nor often equalled.

Daniel Buck, Esq. of Pogonnock, near Hartford, who divided the importation with Mr. Taintor, and one or two others, has several of the animals originally imported, together with many of their progeny and their crosses. We are glad to notice there is a quick demand for them, and at remunerating prices, among the more intelligent of his neighbors; and we are quite certain, that could any gentleman partake of their exquisitely flavored butter, as we have done, at the tables of several of the owners of the Alderneys, they would avail themselves of the first opportunity that presented, for stocking their lawns with enough of them at least, to furnish the cream and butter for their own tables.

NEW TREES, SHRUBS AND PLANTS.

WE do not know a more intelligent and enterprising class of men than American nurserymen; and when people complain how few rare things they introduce into the United States, they might, with great propriety, complain of the want of taste on the part of wealthy people in adorning their grounds with those beautiful new trees, shrubs, and flowers, already found in abundance in the gardens of our nurserymen. It is not long since that we casually visited the country place of one of the wealthiest men of New York, recently deceased. Judge of our surprise when we found only a few quite common native trees, scattered here and there, without any taste whatever in the arrangement, and not a single flower or shrub upon the large lawn in front of the house.

When wealthy men will patronize American nurserymen, then and not till then, may they expect them to employ scientific travellers abroad to enrich their grounds.

We copy the following from the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, which will show a little what is doing in England.

"If the reader would wish to know what is doing in this country, in the importation of new plants, he must visit Exeter. Near that ancient city lies a gentle valley, forming the nursery occupied by Messrs. Veitch and Son, in which alone will be found more new and valuable plants than in any place in Europe, with the single exception of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew—plants obtained by private enterprise for commercial purposes, and not gathered together by the power of a mighty government. By means of excellent collectors, (two brothers of the name of Lona,) and liberal disbursements,

California, Peru, Chili, Chiloe, Patagonia, in the West; and the Khasija hills, the provinces of Tenasserim, Java, Malacca, and the ghauts of Malabar, in the East, have been gleaned, and the result is gathered into hothouses, or transferred to the open air in the fertile soil and happy climate of Devonshire. Let us record a few of the species which caught our eye on a recent visit to this wealthy establishment.

"First among the new plants is to be mentioned *Saxa-Gothica conspicua*, a most beautiful evergreen from the Andes of Patagonia, with the aspect of a Yew tree, which H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT has permitted to bear one of his names. This tree has lived for four years in the open air, and has all the appearance of being as hardy as an Araucaria. From the same country comes *Fitz-Roya Patagonica*, another valuable Conifer, with drooping branches, and also the habit of a Yew; with the *Libocedrus tetragona*, an Arbor-vitæ-like tree, having four-cornered shoots; all, we believe, exclusively in the possession of Messrs. VEITCH.

"Among other evergreens, the existence of which in England is unsuspected, is the great Oblique Beech Tree, from Patagonia (*Fagus obliqua*;) *Eucryphia cordata*, with hard, heart-shaped leaves, and flowers like a Tea plant; *Castanea chrysophylla*, the Evergreen Californian Chestnut; great bushes of *Philesia*, just beginning to produce their crimson tubular flowers, 2 inches long, in the midst of hard, stiff, deep, green leaves; *Pernettya ciliaris*, with its black-green broad leaves and heaps of dull purple berries, not to mention the other species *micronata* and *angustifolia*, loaded with pale berries, gay with ruddy tints; *Laurus aromatica*, a Chilean evergreen, whose leaves are much more fragrant than Sweet Bay; *Embothrium coccineum*, long tufts of crimson blossoms; *Eugenia apiculata* and *Myrtus Ugni*, Chilean Myrtles, the latter with a fruit like a purple Guava; and, finally, the rare and curious *Desfontainia spinosa*, with the air of a Holly bush and the flower of a scarlet trumpet Honeysuckle. Of this one single flower had been produced upon a cutting in a pot.

"Many are the new or little known evergreen Ber-berries collected here: *B. Darwinii*, growing into a round, glittering, exquisitely beautiful bush; *B. flexuosa*, a handsome shrub, with straggling branches; *B. lutea*, a pretty diminutive thing; and several other species, at present undetermined. *Eurybia alpina*, from New Zealand, here vindicates its claim to hardiness, along with *Escallonia Peppigiana*, a Peruvian

bush, loaded with white flowers early in the summer, and a great stiff-leaved *Dracæna*, from New Zealand, which may be *Dr. indivisa*.

"Nor are deciduous hardy plants less common here. An Indian palmated *Rubus* is loaded with yellow fruit as large as an Antwerp Raspberry; great masses of a North wall are covered with the scarlet perennial *Tropæolum speciosum*, which disregards frost but abhors the sun; the hairy-stemmed *Tropæolum Lobbianum* is curling round a rough stake, and decorating it with its vermillion-colored flowers; and *Pavia Californica*, the Californian Horse Chestnut, has established itself in the open quarters of the nursery. Quantities of huge Indian *Lilium giganteum* are hastening to prepare for flowering another year, and heaps of rockwork are glittering with *Oxalis speciosa*.

"Among plants of home origin, we ought to point out the *Hedera Ragneriana*, a kind of Ivy with monstrous heart-shaped leaves; *Cotoneasters*, and such plants worked half-standard high on the common Thorn; a noble looking Holly called *Ilex alla-clerensis*, which seems to have some of the blood of *balearica* in it; a handsome variety of *Arbutus Andrachne*, called *photinifolia*, and most beautiful specimens of that noble *Fuchsia corallina*, whose origin has lately been disputed, but which bears unmistakable evidence of having been derived in part from *F. radicans* or some allied species.

"This sketch of the hardy plants that are already saleable in this establishment, renders an account of the tender plants less interesting for the moment. To them we may return hereafter. For the present it is sufficient to name among the new plants *Lapageria rosea*, a climber from Chiloe, with very large crimson blossoms, a fine new Hoya, with long leathery leaves, some most elegant Indian *Sonerilas* with variegated foliage, a Peruvian Begonia, whose leaves are one confused stain of crimson, purple, green, and silver grey; *Cinchona Condaminea*, one of the true Peruvian bark trees, a plant with a most delicious perfume, now flowering for the first time in Europe; and quantities of Indian Orchids, among which the *D. albosanguineum* stands pre-eminent. As to the Orchids, no plants can exceed their health and beauty, unless it be the choicest of Mr. RUCKER's collection. In short, turn where you will, the eye meets nothing but what is most fine and rare, in this surprising collection of Messrs. VEITCH."

Plow clay lands deep in the autumn and winter, and sandy lands in the spring.

AMERICAN PLOWS IN FRANCE.

In our last number, page 319, under the head of American Plows in Europe, we quoted from Mr. Johnson's letter, what that eminent agriculturist, Count de Gourcey, said of them in France. Since this we have been called upon by Mr. Taintor of Connecticut, who sent these plows of our manufacture to Monsieur Pichat, Director of the National Merino flocks at Rambouillet. Mr. T. was so obliging as to hand us the following, which was translated for our pages by his accomplished daughter.

Rambouillet, 20th Feb. 1851.

MY DEAR SIR:—We received in good season, the really remarkable plows you sent us, for which please accept our most sincere thanks. For my own part I feel especially grateful, for the plow destined for me is a perfect model. I have tried it myself and am quite enchanted with it. The moveable point, so easily adjusted at the option of the plowman, without affecting the strength of the implement, strikes me as no less useful than ingenious. [It was a self-sharpening plow.—Eds.]

Your opinion of our soil was entirely correct. From its nature it wears out our implements very fast, thus much increasing the expenses of repairs, &c. To convince you how much I value your plow, I need only tell you, that I shall have all mine hereafter built on the same plan. I intend taking all possible means to make it known, and to extend its use throughout France. In gratitude to you, sir, I wish it to be called the *Taintor Plow*; for its introduction has really been a great boon to my country. It shall appear in the next agricultural exhibition at Versailles, where, I have no doubt, it will be as highly appreciated as it deserves.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully yours,

PICHAT.

JOHN A. TAINTOR, Esq., Hartford, Conn.

CURE FOR FOUNDER.

THE horse, of all the domestic animals, is the most disposed and the most liable to accidents and disease, arising in part from his peculiar habits, but more generally from the use to which he is put; and perhaps, of all the diseases, there is not one of more frequent, and, at the same time, of so fatal occurrence to the value of a good horse, as the founders; which are of two kinds, and may be denominated chronic and acute. The former manifesting itself in a general stiffness of the limbs, and a contraction of the chest; the latter always the result of some immediate cause, and is most frequently induced

by hard driving, with improper graining and watering.

Some eight years ago, it was my misfortune to have a valuable horse badly foundered in his fore feet. Being ignorant of the disease and its consequences, I placed him in the hands of a celebrated veterinarian, with a request that he should spare no pains or labor to effect a cure.

He commenced operations by applying the hot bath to the feet, legs and breast, and at the same time bleeding in the neck and feet, opening a vein in each foot, near where the hair joins the hoof. At the first bleeding he took about ten quarts of blood, without apparently affecting the animal. The second day, I think we administered some physic. This process of bathing, bleeding, and physicking, was kept up as often as every third or fourth day for the space of ten weeks. The horse, at that time, had so far recovered as barely to hobble out of the stable.

This mode of treatment was continued at intervals, and in about six months my doctor pronounced the horse well, but it was at least eighteen months before he was entirely free from all symptoms of the disease; having, during that time, lost the entire hoofs from his fore feet—new ones having grown out in their stead.

As bad luck would have it, about two years after the first accident, the same horse was again foundered, and if possible, worse than at the first time. Feeling that the expense and trouble of a second cure would amount to more than the value of the horse, I ordered the stableman to take him into the back yard; I then called the blacksmith, had the shoes taken from his feet, hoofs pared off as thin as possible, and with a tool, such as lumbermen mark boards with, cut the arteries in each toe, just at the point of the frog. The blood continued to run until the horse dropped down, when it stopped, and in a few minutes he rallied and got up. I then took a half barrel tub, filled it with water, and placed the horse's feet in it; I had near, a large box of ice, (it being July,) from which the tub was constantly supplied, until about one hundred pounds were consumed, requiring about fourteen hours. So intense was the heat in the feet and legs, that a constant steam ascended from the water, the horse remaining perfectly quiet, and apparently free from pain. At this point of time he was taken with the shakes; I put my hand to his feet, and found them perfectly cold to the touch. I then had him removed from the tub to the stall, and wrapped in blankets; where he had stood perhaps five minutes, when he dropped apparently dead; but by applying the straw

whisp, he was shortly restored to his feet, and by adding a double quantity of blankets, the perspiration started very freely. I then administered half a pound of glauher salts, and left him in care of the hostler for the night. On going to the stable in the morning, I found my horse no different in appearance from one just off from a long, but not a hard journey. I took him to the smiths, had the shoes replaced, and that day rode him to my farm, (two miles distant,) and back again. That was the last of the founders. I now keep the same horse, and he is perfectly sound and a very valuable beast.

For the chronic or chest founders, I should recommend the blanket sweat. This can be effected by wrapping the shoulders, or the part affected, in blankets very thick and warm, and by moving him until he perspires freely. On removing the blankets shower copiously with cold water.

B. WEBSTER.

Portsmouth, N. H.

CULTIVATE FRUIT.

WE are surprised at the apathy of our citizens to the cultivation of fruit. Nine tenths of the intelligent, industrious, pains-taking, and economical people, who will busy themselves twelve or fifteen hours a day in their ordinary pursuits, will entirely neglect providing themselves and their families with this luxury, though they may have ample grounds for the purpose, every way fitted for producing it in profusion.

We call it a luxury, but it is more properly one of the necessities of life; and for the want of it, persons frequently become diseased, or continue so, if disease is induced from other causes, when the free use of seasonable, well-ripened fruit would have restored them at one fiftieth part the expense incurred by apothecaries' and doctors' bills. Who ever heard of an ailing family, whether adults or children, who indulged freely in wholesome fruits, and abstained from the made-up dishes of the pastry and other cooks?

But it is not as a corrective or medicine only, that we deem fruit invaluable as an article of diet. It has a direct money value, estimable in dollars and cents, for the amount it contributes as food to the support of the human system. This is conclusively proved, both theoretically and practically; for accurate analysis has shown that cultivated fruits contain large proportions of nutritive matter, and experience equally proves that when fruit enters largely into the diet of the family, a corresponding diminution of other food is always apparent. As profit, then, is directly concerned in the cultiva-

tion of good fruit, we hope we may command the favorable attention of our readers for a moment while advocating its increased cultivation.

Many residences in the city, and nearly all in the country, have yards or grounds sufficiently extensive to admit of the cultivation of some choice fruit trees; and where they are too limited for these, a few well-selected grape vines can seldom want suitable earth for rooting, or a favorable wall for climbing with its profuse branches. The yards even of the densely built city of New York, if well planted and cultivated with vines, would yield no inconsiderable proportion of the grapes required by its citizens. Yet, how few tables in this city, and even in the country, are supplied with this delicious fruit from their ample surroundings.

We know a half acre of cultivated raspberries, (the genuine red Antwerp,) that produced in a single season, what sold for \$1,400 in the New-York market. Yet, how seldom do people have a plate of this fine fruit of their own raising, to treat a friend with.

The strawberry is one of the most wholesome, as it is one of the most delicious of fruits, and a patch of four rods square, if judiciously selected and nicely cultivated, would yield an abundance for a large family; yet, not one household out of every hundred in the Union, is supplied with any except such as they buy or gather from the untitled meadows.

The cherry is a hardy tree, a prolific bearer, and a most delicious fruit, if the finer varieties be selected; and the tree is decidedly ornamental withal; yet, numberless families get no cherries worth eating, save what they beg or buy at extravagant prices.

The pear, the peach, and the plum, are abundant bearers, and the richness of flavor of their best varieties are not surpassed by any that grow either within or without the tropics. They have of late been subjected to their respective scourging diseases of blight, the yellows, and the curculio; but a moderate share of attention to their proper treatment and remedies, will remove each, and afford an ample return to such as will give a small part of their time to cultivating them.

If objection be still made to the nice and discriminating attention required by the foregoing fruits, what possible excuse can our indolent frame for the neglect of that hardy, self-sustaining, universally acceptable fruit, the apple? This, the king of American fruits, will grow everywhere, produce abundantly, and of the choicest flavor, provided, only, that a suitable

position, fertile soil, and the best varieties, and adapted to the locality, be adopted. If objections—thick as blackberries—can be alleged against the cultivation of any or each of the other fruits, none can be successfully maintained against this. It is a fruit that is suited to all tastes, as it runs through any conceivable shade of flavor; it is in full season from July to June, and is equally adapted for use when plucked from the tree, as when prepared by an almost infinite variety of forms, when artificially compounded by skillful cookery. We marvel at the neglect so frequently observable in the cultivation of this splendid fruit.

A reasonable degree of attention to these products, would not only be attended with decided pleasure in the planting and rearing of the trees, and in the luxury and support they yield to the family as food, but there would be frequently, besides, an ample result in money profit, from the sale of the fruit. A friend whom we visited the past season, had but two or three acres around his house, and this mostly devoted to lawn, gardens, out buildings, and ornamental trees; yet he informed us that a fruiterer solicited the privilege of gathering some of his surplus cherries for market, and paid him \$75 for what he scarcely missed. He had an abundance of choice peaches, and we have not, for years before, seen such a profusion of the daintiest plums and pears, including barrels of the fairest Seckles we ever saw, the white Doyenne, Bartlett, &c.

The progress of the age, we are happy to observe, is decidedly towards fruit raising. Reading, observation, and the impulse given by the various agricultural and horticultural societies of the country, have stimulated effort and sharpened invention, and thousands of our more intelligent countrymen are commencing a system now, which posterity will carry forward to a successful issue. It will be a disgrace to them if the finest fruit-producing country of the globe does not hereafter yield an abundance of fruit to supply every mouth in the Union.

WHEAT IN GEORGIA.

MR. R. PETERS of Atlanta, one of the most enterprising and improving farmers of Georgia, writes us under date of August 15th, as follows:—

I decided three years ago that wheat could be raised in the Cherokee counties of this state to a profit. After three years of trial, two of which failed, owing to remarkably bad seasons, I have this year produced 417 bushels from

nineteen of seed. Upon one measured acre—forty bushels. It is known as the Tubman variety, a very early white wheat, and is the best out of twenty-five kinds tried since 1849. The ensuing season I go in to beat any farm in the state, both in quality and yield per acre. I therefore request you to forward me ten tons of the best Peruvian guano, and I will sow one hundred acres with guano, and fifty with lime, which I consider will be a fair experiment. If it fails I will try again, and if it succeeds, I hope all my neighbors will profit by it."

This is the true spirit which animates all the improving agriculturists of America.

Georgia has produced this season, one of the best wheat crops ever grown in the state; and yet Mr. Peters, at his great steam mill at Atlanta, is grinding wheat grown in Ohio and Michigan. This is a very singular result, and one not anticipated by farmers or millers, when the crop was harvested in May and June. It is in consequence of the most extraordinary drouth ever known, which has entirely cut off the corn crop, and obliged farmers to make use of their wheat, not only to feed their people, but horses, mules, and pigs.

Mr. Cunningham told us he had been offered wheat at his mill at Augusta, in even exchange for corn.

COLOR OF COCHIN CHINA FOWLS NOT MIXING.

MR. TURNER of England, asserts that he has bred buff, white, and grey Cochin China fowls together; and that the produce of these were all of clear, distinct colors—that is, pure white, pure buff, or pure grey.

This is the first time we have heard of white or grey Cochin China fowls; we had understood that the pure breed were always buff. But so far as our observation is concerned, we see little or no difference between them and Shanghais. These are of various colors, black, white, grey, red and buff. At least so they are called.

Of their distinctive names however, we know little, and care less. These fowls are one and all too long legged to find a place in the poultry yard, in our humble judgment; although we have many excellent friends, particularly at the south, who differ with us in opinion.—But in that warm climate, be it remembered, they will do infinitely better than at the north, where cold weather checks their growth, and prevents a full development of carcass and egg-laying.

Suppose by way of convincing us, some southern friend sends us a brace of fat capons, so as

to enable us to judge better of the merits of this rather favorite breed or breeds of poultry among them. Dining on fat tender capons is a very *convincing* argument, to which, we beg to be understood, we have no *serious objection*!

••••• COW MILKERS—CHURNS.

I see in your Journal an advertisement of a new invention for milking cows. Please state to us the cost of the article, its probable durability, and the manner of using it, so that we can better judge whether it is worth our attention to send to New York for it. [a]

And then please describe some useful invention for a churn, by which the milk, direct from the cow, can be converted into nice butter, without the trouble of setting away to cool and be skimmed. By so doing you will oblige many of your Texas subscribers, who have hundreds of fine gentle cows, which, at present, are of no other use than to breed from, as we cannot incur the labor and expense of making butter in the slow, toilsome, old-fashioned way. [b]

You have told us a great deal about your guano and other fertilisers. This will do very well for those who live on worn-out lands, and the poor arid plains of North Carolina and Georgia; but our lands in Texas are already as rich as they can be made; we only wish to know how to turn the productions of our fertile *vales* and verdant prairies to the best possible advantage. [c]

T. J. P.
Gonzales, Texas.

[a] The price of cow milkers is \$2 50, and they are thus described:—

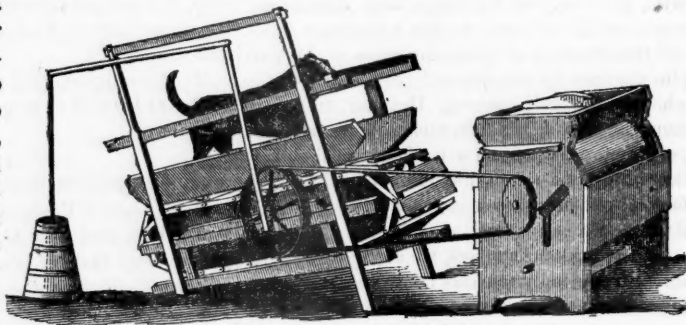
"This apparatus consists of an air and water-tight bag, composed of india rubber, gutta percha, or other suitable material, encircled by an elastic strap or band at top, and provided with an aperture at bottom, fitted with a silver tube of a size capable of entering the milk duct of a cow's teat, which tube is provided with a piston also of silver, and packed so as to be airtight; or the piston may be made of gutta percha, in which case no packing would be required. When using the apparatus, the bag is turned down, so as to expose the silver tube, which is inserted in the milk duct of the cow's

teat, and the bag is raised all round, so as to enclose the teat, and prevent the air entering; the piston is then withdrawn, and a free passage left for the milk through the tube into a can placed underneath. The flow of the milk is facilitated by the contraction of the elastic band round the mouth of the sack, and by warmth caused by the exclusion of air between the sack and the cow's teat, which is about equal to that produced by a calf in the act of sucking.

Several persons have used this apparatus in this vicinity, and inform us that they cannot depend upon it."

[b] Any churn of a suitable size will answer, though we should much prefer the thermometer churn, (figured below,) for this purpose, as the action of churning with this is very simple and easy. It can be moved readily by hand or by dog, or sheep or goat power, as figured below.

Milk or cream should be warmed to a temperature of about 62 degrees before churning. This greatly facilitates the process of bringing



RAILWAY CHURN AND DOG POWER. FIG. 62.

the butter. Cream will generally produce butter much quicker than milk; and the richer the latter is, the sooner the butter will come. Much of the celebrated Goshen butter is made direct from the milk.

[c] The best advice we can give our correspondent is, if he has not got them already, to procure the ten bound volumes of the *Agriculturist*, and after reading them through and practicing all their good precepts, leave his fine fertile country and pass a few months here at the north, and see all that is going on among us, in the way of improvement,

—•••—
CULTIVATORS of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interest, by the most lasting bonds.—*Jefferson*

SOMETHING ABOUT TREES.

THE Minister of Public Works in France has ordered the public roads bordered with trees. Those of forty-eight feet wide, or wider, are to have a double row.

"This is as it should be, not only in France, but throughout the world. How delightful it would be in the warm summer to ride all day on a good road, in the shade. Besides, the value of a farm, in our estimation, would be enhanced much more than the cost of thus setting the trees. Suppose our young men try this thing, and in place of shade trees set out fruit trees in the highway fronting the homestead."

If timber trees are planted, the most valuable kinds should be selected, and such as would not injure the crops in adjoining fields. Of this kind the locust, black walnut, and butternut rank high.

Trees of the South.—Texas produces the pecan; Louisiana the cypress, which is the tree of the state; Mississippi the magnolia; Florida the live oak; Georgia and North Carolina the yellow pine. This is the tree which furnishes the world with tar and turpentine, and also with that most valuable timber, known as hard pine, or North Carolina pine. The dead wood of this tree is very full of pitch, and is known as *light wood*—one of the best materials ever seen for kindling a quick fire.

The palmetto belongs to South Carolina. It is a beautiful tree, but only useful for a few purposes. It is the finest specimen of the palm family indigenous to the United States. It possesses a great, and to this country, an increasing value. It is the only tree produced in our forests which is not attacked by the *toredo navalis*, or ship worm, and as it is incorruptible in salt water, its value for submarine purposes is almost incalculable.

It proved at the old fort, on Sullivan's Island, to possess another value. Cannon balls could not penetrate or destroy a fortification built of palmetto logs. Its leaves can be employed in the manufacture of hats, baskets, mats, and many other purposes of domestic economy.

It is called the cabbage palm, for two reasons. There is a resemblance in appearance between the cabbage stalk and the bole of the palmetto. The roots are also similar; there is also an edible substance, called the "cabbage," composed of the unexpanded embryo leaves, which may be classed among the most delicious vegetables produced on our tables. It is, however, a wasteful luxury, as the tree always perishes when deprived of this part of its foliage.

The palmetto abounds along the sea coast of

Carolina and Georgia, confined to the neighborhood of salt water; preferring damp, rich soils. Flowers in June—July.

The Aloe.—We have been shown a beautiful specimen of a fishing line made from the fibres of the so called century plant, which abounds here. It has the smoothness and lustre of silk, and great strength, and is well adapted for cordage of every description. The plant is grown upon the poorest soils, and attains an immense size. The project for introducing its cultivation for cordage is worthy of attention.

Alanthus Tree.—A correspondent of the New York Evening Post, states that the odor from this tree is poisonous to such a degree as to affect health, and in some cases to produce death. A whole family in Brooklyn were prostrated from a condition of good health to sick beds by its poisonous breath, when the season arrived for leaving the windows of their bed rooms open. They did not know what was the cause of decline, until one of their number had become a victim to its dangerous shade.

A valuable Tree.—There is a tree in Mexico called the *chijol*, a very fine wood, which, according to a writer in the National Intelligencer, (W.D. Porter,) becomes petrified after being cut, in a very few years, whether left in the open air or buried. From this timber, houses could be built that would, in a few years, become fire-proof, and last as long as those built of stone; the wood, in a green state, is easily worked; it is used in building wharves, forts, &c., and would be very good as railroad sleepers, or for plank road stringers.

A GREAT MILKER AND BUTTER COW.—Mr. Ganno, of Michigan, writes us that he has a grade shorthorn cow, got by Splendor, which took the first premium at the state fair last fall. She has given 60 and 70 pounds (or 30 to 35 quarts) of milk per day, for weeks together. This milk yielded from 2 to 2½ pounds of butter per day. She made 26 pounds of butter in ten successive days.

Mr. G. says, furthermore, that he has a three-year-old steer out of this cow, which he can sell for much more than any native steer of his age in the neighborhood. So much for imported stock.

LARGE USE OF GUANO.—Major John Jones of Wheatland, has, we understand, purchased 60 tons of best quality guano, at a cost of upwards of \$3,000, for his wheat fields this fall. He expects his next crop to reach, with ordinary luck, 12,000 bushels.—*Del. Republican.*

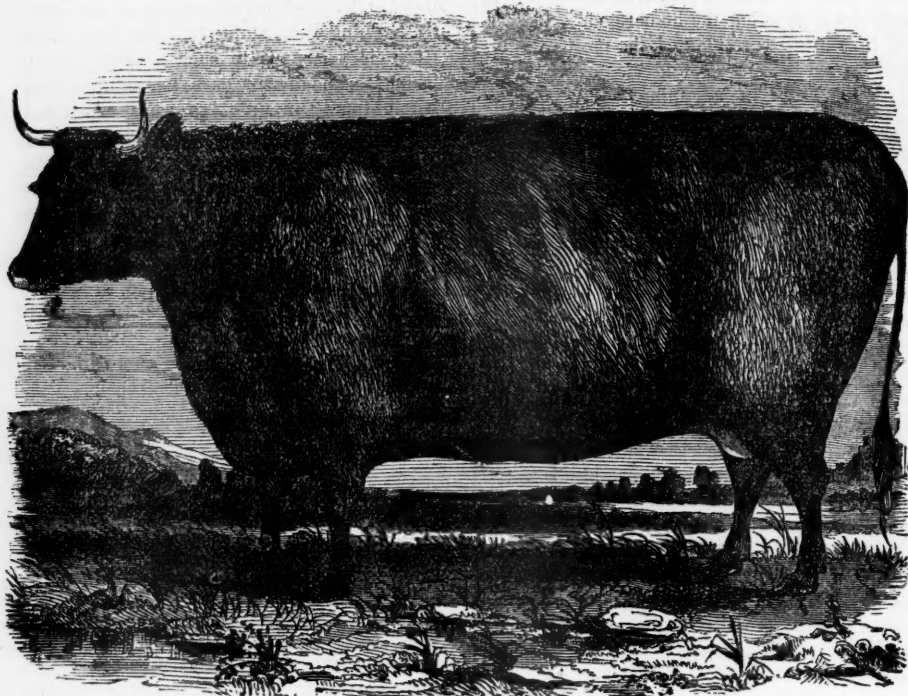
A DEVON COW.

WELL do we recollect the delight our bounding heart experienced the first time we looked at Devon cattle. We were too young and inexperienced then, to critically understand the difference between them, and native cattle; and yet, that they were infinitely superior some way, and that we had never seen anything of the ox kind before so elegant, and so apparently high bred, we could not but inwardly acknowledge. They reminded us of a troop of Arabian horses, of a herd of deer, of the graceful, swift-

good in these respects, as the shorthorns; at the same time their dairy qualities have become inferior to no other breed of their size.

The cow below, won the first premium in her class, at the New-York State Agricultural Society's Show, at Syracuse, in September, 1849.

GRAIN AND STOCK IN MISSISSIPPI.—A spirited farmer in this state thus writes us. I intend to build a big barn soon, and what is more, fill it with grain and hay. This year I have 120 acres in corn, which will probably yield 4,000



A DEVON COW.—FIG. 64. THE PROPERTY OF AMBROSE STEVENS.

footed antelope, and the proud stag, with his high, tossing antlers. Yet, to realise such a description, the Devons must be taken in their younger days, and when rather lean than fat; and not in the staid, solid proportions of the above matronly figure. This cow, however, shows what a Devon well fed, can do, and their great superiority as a grazier's beast. Devons have been much improved in England during the past half century. Without losing anything of their fineness of limb, their briskets have been enlarged, greater breadth has been given to their loins, while the quarters have become fuller, and the twist better let down. In fact the best improved are nearly, if not quite as

bushels, 10 acres in potatoes, 30 in oats, rye, and barley, 4 in pindars, 5 in millet, and 1 in garden, thus making 170 acres in provision crops for man and beast. I only plant 130 acres in cotton. I have no idea of making cotton to pay others to raise hogs, cattle, and hay for me. I have 3 mule colts, 3 horse colts, and 7 brood mares, besides farm stocks, hogs, &c.

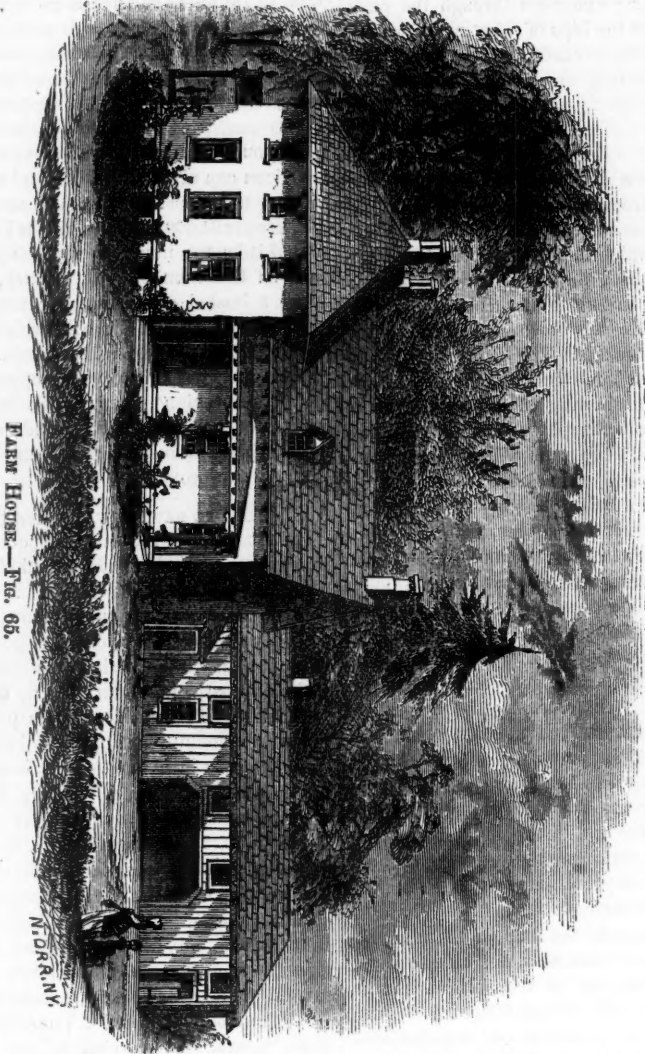
EFFECT OF HOGS ON SOIL.—Mr. G. kept 30 hogs in a field of nine acres during the winter for three years. It was in corn every year, and no other manure was added. The effect was visible in the appearance of each succeeding crop, and the third year the increase yield was about one-third.

RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

THE accompanying design of a farm house, is from a work now in press, by Mr. L. F. Allen, of Black Rock, entitled "Rural Architecture." It will soon be published by C. M. Saxton, at 152 Fulton street, N. Y. Judging from what we have seen in manuscript, it will immediately

wagon houses; a piggery, poultry house, and dove cote; together with a chapter or two on general farming, improved stock, gardens, orchards, parks and lawns.

Design III.—We here present the reader with a substantial, plain, yet highly respectable stone or brick farm house of the second class,



take rank among the best works of the kind. The author has had great experience in rural architecture, is a man of taste, and we think his designs will prove generally acceptable to the wants and wishes of his countrymen. The work will not only contain cottages and farm houses, but barns, stables, sheds, tool, cart, and

suitable for an estate of three to five hundred acres; and accommodations for a family of a dozen or more persons. The style is mixed rural Gothic, Italian and bracketed; yet in keeping with the character of the farm, and the farmer's standing and occupation.

The main body of this house is 42 by 24 feet

on the ground, and one and three quarter stories high—the chambers running two or three feet into the roof, as choice or convenience may direct. The roof has a pitch of 30 to 40 degrees from a horizontal line, and broadly spread over the walls, say two and a half feet, showing the ends of the rafters, bracket fashion. The chimneys pass out through the peak of the roof, upon the hips of what would otherwise be the gables, connect with the long sides of the roof, covering the front and rear. On the long front is partly seen, in the perspective, a portico 16 by 10 feet—not the chief entrance front, but rather a side front, practically, which leads into a lawn or garden, as may be most desirable, and from which the best view from the house is commanded. Over this porch is a small gable running into the roof to break its monotony, in which is a door-window leading from the upper hall on to the deck of the portico. This gable has the same finish as the main roof, by brackets. The chamber windows are two thirds or three quarters the size of the lower ones; thus showing the upper story not full height, below the plates, but running two to four feet into the garret. The rear wing containing the entrance, or business front, is 24 by 32 feet, one and a half stories high, with a pitch of roof not less than 35 degrees, and spread over the walls, both at the eaves and gable, in the same proportion as the roof to the main body. In front of this is a porch or veranda, eight feet wide, with a low hipped roof. In the front and rear roofs of this wing is a dormer window to light the chambers. The gable to this wing is bold, and gives it character by the breadth of its roof over the walls, and the strong brackets by which it is supported. The chimney is thrown up strong and boldly at the point of the roof, indicating the every-day uses of the fire places below, which, although distinct and wide apart in their location on the ground floors, are drawn together in the chambers, thus showing only one escape through the roof.

The wood house in the rear of the wing has a roof of the same character, and connects with the long building in the rear, which has the same description of roof, but hipped at the end. That end over the workshop, and next the wood house, shows a bold gable like the wing of the house, and affords room and light to the lumber room over the shop, and also gives variety and relief to the otherwise too great sameness of roof appearance on the farther side of the establishment.

VALUE OF POULTRY MANURE.

It is lamentable, and disgusting even, to see what a waste is going on in this country of one of the richest and most valuable manures known. We are importing shipload after shipload of guano, (sea bird manure,) while hundreds of tons of poultry manure, which, it is asserted, is equal in value—is suffered to go to waste, in the United States. Each farmer's poultry yard produces so little that it is generally thought a matter of no importance, so it is suffered to go to waste, and thus the country loses *over a million* dollars annually! You do not believe it—we knew you would not. Yet, let us calculate—an American can always do this—and see whether we have any foundation for such an assertion.

There are 21,000,000 people in the United States. Would it be too much to suppose that one in thirty of this number kept poultry, which produced a bushel of manure per annum? This would make 700,000 bushels, weighing 60 lbs. per bushel, equivalent to 21,000 tons. The commercial value of this we will suppose equal to the best Peruvian guano, which is worth \$50 per ton, of 2,000 lbs. This would make *one million and fifty thousand dollars*. Thus our assertion is more than proved.

HOW TO SAVE POULTRY MANURE.

HAVING learned the value of poultry manure, we suppose now, our readers would like to know what is the best method to save it.

First, build you a poultry-house, if it be no more than a rough scaffolding of poles or slabs, laid upon crotches, forming a double pitch roof, with end boards in winter, to keep out the wind and driving storms. Under this place parallel roosts; the manure during the night, then, will all drop down in a narrow row beneath. Here place light loam about a foot deep, rather wider and longer than the roost, and give it a sprinkling of plaster of Paris an inch thick. When this is covered an inch deep with manure, give it a layer of loam four inches deep, and another sprinkling of an inch of plaster, and so continue. In the spring, mix all well together, keep it free from the rain, and use it at the rate of one pint to a hill of corn, or in a corresponding quantity for cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, melons, peas, onions, strawberries, or any other fruit, vegetable, or grain, requiring rich warm manure, and our word for it, you will have a large crop of a superior quality. Thus you will become one out of the many who is desirous to benefit himself, and assist in saving more than a million of dollars annually to the country.

PORK, BACON, HAM.—No. 8.

The best and most economical Mode of Rearing, Keeping, and Fattening Pigs.—In selecting males and females to breed from, neither should be chosen less than twelve to fifteen months old; the third litter will generally be found the best for this purpose. Whether as a boar or sow, the finest of each sex only ought to be selected. By these means only will the good points of any breed be perpetuated. There is generally one small pig in every litter, called the riddling—this should never be used as an animal to breed from. For sucking pigs and porkers color is an object—these should invariably be white. For bacon hogs color is a matter of indifference, other than the fact that the black pigs appear generally to do better on the same amount of food than the white breeds. A singular reason was assigned to me for the prevalence of black-colored pigs in Essex, viz.: that the white kind was subject to eruptions of the skin of the back when put into the clover-fields, whilst the black kinds were not obnoxious to this complaint. Probably the white kind had more of the Chinese, and the other more of the Neapolitan breed. It must be remembered, also, that the old Essex breed was a black one. A sow's usual period of gestation is from sixteen to seventeen weeks. When she has arrived near the period of farrowing she will be seen collecting and carrying straws in her mouth, to form her bed. If there exists any suspicion that the sow will devour her young, as sometimes is the case, care should be taken that she is securely muzzled. All such sows should be fatted and slaughtered. The carnivorous habit here alluded to is rarely exhibited amongst the improved breeds; amongst the old sows of the rough breed this habit was somewhat prevalent, probably brought on, in many instances, through deficiency of food.

Sows should be put to the boar at such times as to avoid farrowing from the middle of October to the end of February, unless sucking pigs for the festive time of Christmas and the new year is the object; if so they should be well littered and kept warm. Whether intended for sucking pigs, porkers, or stores, skimmed buttermilk and whey, mixed with steamed potatoes, and a little barley, pea, or oatmeal, should be given in moderate quantities even when sucking; if intended for porkers, they should be kept continually fed up with this mixture. Sucking pigs should never be allowed to run about, and porkers permitted only sufficient exercise to keep them in health. Where convenient, store pigs may be allowed to pasture in clover,

giving them only a morning and evening meal in addition, or they may be allowed to root in fallows or on the dung-heap, and during winter, in the straw-yard. In fallows and rough pastures swine eagerly devour such weeds as dandelion, chickweed, sowthistle, &c.

For store pigs, exercise is necessary in order fully to develop the frame. In feeding, tranquillity is equally indispensable, a singular exemplification of which was made in the course of the experiments of the Earl of Egremont, (1777,) related in the 'Annals of Agriculture,' upon some porkers, seven of which were put up to fatten in the ordinary manner in a sty, and another of the same brood, but smaller than the others, was put into a cage one week later. All were fed alike on barley-meal. When slaughtered, the one fed in the cage exceeded in weight any of the others. The cage was made so that he could not turn round, and had only sufficient room to rise up and lie down. Whether this mode would prove advantageous on the large scale is a matter of doubt. The experiment has however been adduced by Baron Liebig as a practical evidence of the correctness of his theory respecting the formation of fat. Too much exercise is well known to retard fattening; or, to use the ordinary phrase employed by farmers, "they run all the flesh off their bones."

Where a large number of hogs are to be fattened and bred, it has been recommended that the sties should form a semicircle, the steaming apparatus, &c., being placed by the straight side. This form has many advantages. In a general way, the feeding of hogs will only form a minor adjunct to the other business of the farm, and at only few places will it be found convenient to erect new buildings for the purpose, however advantageous they might eventually prove. There are some circumstances connected with sties which should be INVARIABLY attended to: these are, that their floors should be well paved with stone, flag, or hard brick, the interior elevated half a foot above the exterior area, and a sufficient slope afforded to both, with proper drains to carry all moisture to the dung-heap. Separate sties must be kept for breeding-sows, weaning pigs, stores, and fattening pigs.

Sties should be so constructed that the swine may be fed without the feeder going amongst them; and divisions should be made in the feeding-trough, according to the number of swine, in order to prevent the strong driving away the weak; if they can be made to communicate conveniently with the straw-yard and dung-heap, all the better, particularly for stores and brood-sows.

The sties should be frequently swept and washed out, and lime-whitened at least three times during the year. The most profitable mode of feeding store pigs, is to commence by giving only inferior sort of food thrice a day, bettering the quality and increasing the quantity as the frame becomes perfectly developed.

The store or youthful period of all animals occurs when their vital and nervous energies are at the highest, which enables them to assimilate nutriment from indifferent food. Moderate exercise at the same time assists nature and aids the full development of the frame, the animal being thus gradually prepared to take on that increased amount of muscle and fat which ultimately repays the farmer for his toil and expenditure. In making choice of food for hogs there can be little doubt but potatoes, when plentiful, mixed with peas or bean-meal, is the most economical food for store pigs, and the same food mixed with Indian meal and buttermilk is the best adapted for feeding porkers. In cheese dairies, peas or bean-meal should always be mixed with the whey, in order to replace the caseous matter abstracted by the cheese. Swede turnips boiled form only an inferior substitute for potatoes, their feeding properties not being equal to carrots and parsnips; in fact, on the two latter, hogs will do well if combined with milk and a little bean or pea-meal. Oatmeal and skimmed milk is the best food for aiding sucking pigs and very small porkers of 40 to 50 lbs. weight.

The theory of the action of the various articles of food named is as follows—amylaceous or starchy food, such as potatoes, aid in sustaining the animal heat and the formation of fat, the latter property being much increased when assisted by other nutritious matters in a more concentrated form, particularly maize or Indian corn. Pea and bean-meal, from the great amount of caseous matter which they contain, should invariably form a portion of the food of growing pigs, affording, as they do, the material for forming the cellular and other tissues, in such a high degree, indeed that hogs fed on bean-meal alone are well known to form bacon disagreeably hard. Where pigs are fed without skim or buttermilk, pea or bean-meal should form an invariable part of their food. An inferior substitute for pea and bean-meal is frequently used in the shape of bran and pollard, which contain a considerable portion of the elementary substances required to develop the bones and tissues. In the present uncertainty of the potato crop, it would be hazardous to make that tuber

the basis for the calculation of the cost of producing swine's flesh: if it unfortunately eventuate that the potato, from its liability to disease, should, in a great measure cease to be cultivated to the extent that it has formerly been, the feeding of hogs will necessarily be thrown principally on milk and grain. If this should prove to be the case, barley, from the large amount of starch which it contains, will be found the best substitute for the potato; in which case, one-third by weight of barley, one-third of bran or pea-meal, and one-third Indian meal, will be found the cheapest and best mixture for growing hogs; the pea-meal to be lessened and the Indian meal increased as the hog approaches maturity.

Potatoes mixed with the above grains, form the most appropriate food for store and fattening hogs, gradually withdrawing the potatoes, and finishing the feeding with dry balls of the mixture named. For exquisitely fine pork, whether to be consumed fresh or as bacon, the hogs should be fed solely on skim and buttermilk mixed with oatmeal. The mixture of Indian corn, barley, and pea-meal forms a very close imitation of the constituents of oatmeal. It has been found very profitable to consume tares by store hogs.

Feed regularly, as abundance of food will not make up for the loss arising from irregular feeding. Pigs know their feeding time very accurately, and nothing retards their feeding so much as allowing them to be pining and weazening for their anticipated regular meal. Also mix a little salt with their food; keep the troughs and animals clean, their sties and beds dry and warm. Vary the bill of fare; in doing so, however, be careful not to lower the general standard of the diet; hogs do much better when their food is varied. Stores, brood-sows, and feeding hogs, should all be fed separately.

Hogs do better on cooked than raw food. Some instructive experiments on this point are recorded in the Highland Transactions. I have seen some hogs of the improved large Irish breed feed to very great weights on *raw potatoes alone*—the flesh good and firm; these are, however, rare instances.

When the sow is suckling, she should have extra food; oatmeal, milk, and potatoes, or pea-meal, potatoes, and milk, are the best. At the time of farrowing she should be carefully watched, and the young ones removed; the placenta, or after-birth, ought also to be removed, otherwise she will devour it, and thus engender a morbid appetite, which may eventually cause

her to devour her young. Abortion seldom takes place with the sow: the symptoms of such are similar to those of approaching parturition, but more intense. When this is likely to take place, a veterinary surgeon, if within call, should be requested to attend. As a general rule, a sow ought not to be allowed to breed after she has entered her fifth year, nor boars after the seventh.

Swine are troubled with several diseases, the most common being a species of leprosy, commonly known by the name of measles, which, and the other more serious diseases, would require a separate treatise to do justice to the subject.—*Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.*

THE above concludes the able article on pork, bacon, and ham. It is not exactly applicable to the system pursued in the United States of rearing and fattening pigs, and curing their meat; nevertheless, it contains so many excellent general hints, and is written with so much ability, that we deemed it highly worthy the attention of our readers.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER NUMBER OF THE AGRICULTURIST.

Prospectus of The Plow.—This is the title of the first article in the October number of the *Agriculturist*, followed by an article under the head of Editors' Table, which tells us that at the close of this year, *THE PLOW* will take the place of our old familiar journal, and the third officer be promoted to the command of the ship. I hope his long experience will enable him to sail the new craft safely to the end of a prosperous voyage. No one, now, can object to take passage with him on account of the fare, for it seems to me reduced below a living price. *Fifty cents a year* for a paper like the *Agriculturist*, is certainly dog cheap, and ought to insure the largest circulation ever given to an agricultural paper in America. If anybody ever reads the scribbling of your Reviewer, (you say they do,) I hope they will read this declaration. It is the duty, yes, positive duty of every reader, not only to subscribe himself for *THE PLOW*, but to procure half a dozen of his neighbors to join him. This should be done to show the publisher or proprietors of the new paper, that the public appreciate their motives in making this great reduction, which is to increase its circulation and consequent usefulness. Come then, brother farmers, let us give our old friend a benefit. Only a bushel of potatoes for a monthly visitor, while every number will be worth more to you than the cost of the whole twelve. If

the name of such a veteran writer in agricultural papers, as that of the editor of *THE PLOW*, will not take the reef out of your purse strings, the attempt need never be made again to induce farmers to read.

A Farmer's Kitchen of Old Times.—Alas, yes! old times have passed away, and what have the new times brought us instead of the happy scene so graphically described in the article now under review? In reading, I was insensibly carried back to the days of my youth; aye, and to my own sweet Mary, mother of her who now bears the name, and calls me by the endearing appellation of father; but not so dear as the appellation given me by her mother. None but one born upon the soil of New England could ever write such a history of a fire-side scene in an old-fashioned farm house.

Pork—Bacon—Ham.—No. 7.—These articles all contain more or less very crude matter, mixed up with much that is valuable. The postulate in the first sentence of the present number is of this character. The hardness or solidity of pork depends as much upon the quality as quantity of food. Pork fattened upon beech mast, is a soft, flabby substance, and exhibits the characteristics of that described by this writer, in consequence of being ill fed. He says lean pork will be too salt, and like the Westphalian hams, have to be freshened before it can be eaten. This is all an error in salting. If only just enough salt is given the meat to make it palatable, it can be preserved fully as well and will make far sweeter bacon. Six pounds of salt to a hundred pounds of bacon is ample; but it never should be put in pickle. If you will use a spoonful of sugar or molasses to each ham or shoulder, and a little pinch of saltpetre, you will not need so much salt as even the above small quantity. This writer speaks of the necessity of rubbing the salt well into the skin of the meat. If this is necessary in England, it is not so in this country. If the flesh part is well salted, I will insure the whole. I have saved hams perfectly, in that way, which weighed forty-five pounds each, and better ham never was eaten. But I certainly did not smoke them according to the directions of this writer, and I don't believe it is possible to make good hams, if his directions are followed. The best bacon in the world is made in the open, log smoke houses of Virginia, North Carolina, and other southern and western states, where the air has free circulation and the meat never feels the heat of the fire used to create the smoke.

Importation of Merino Sheep.—Far better for

Americans would it have been, if all the French Merino wool ever imported into this country had been upon the backs of the sheep producing it, instead of being first manufactured. Mr. Jewett speaks of wethers averaging 250 pounds when fattened for the butcher. Does he mean live or dead weight? [Live weight, of course.—Eds.] If they dressed that much, they were enormous. I believe the heaviest sheep butchered in this country, that I have heard of, dressed a little over 200 pounds, and that was one of the great Cotswolds.

Law of Overhanging Trees.—This is a good, and I hope will be a useful article. But there is not enough of this decision. Suppose I have an apple or pear tree, the fruit of which is very valuable, which has overhung my neighbor's land these thirty years, during all of which time, I have gone over and picked up the fruit unmolested. Have I acquired a right to continue to do so? Or suppose I have a tree only five years old, and thus have not acquired a right, and my neighbor forbids me from coming on his premises; but suppose I do, what damage can he get if he sues me? Has he any right to gather the fruit off the overhanging limbs? Have I a right to climb my tree and go out upon the limbs over his ground, and pick the fruit? These are all questions for you or your correspondents to take into consideration.

Skylarks.—I don't know so well about the injury to community of the birds of this name; but there is another kind of "skylark," which do an infinite amount of damage in their night prowlings through the farmer's orchards and watermelon patches. I don't think shooting a few of them just enough to tickle their stern a little, would do any harm.

A Pattern of a Landlord.—Glad to hear of one good pattern. Wonder if he would extend the same courtesies to your Reviewer, if he should drop in some day? [To be sure he would, and be glad of the chance.—Eds.]

Post Hole Augers.—How many of your readers ever saw one of these useful implements; much more, ever used one? How many, after seeing the cut, will buy one? About one in a hundred, and the other ninety-nine will still dig their post holes after the same tiresome, slow process of *auld lang syne*.

Shade Improves the Soil.—No doubt of it; but not to the extent that Mr. Baldwin thinks it does. If that were the case, we should need no other manure—shade alone would give all the fertility required. I believe in shade; but having seen a good deal of sunshine, I am not quite

green enough to swallow the shade theory entirely.

Birds.—A glorious article, worthy the man who penned it, and profitable to be read by all mankind and all their neighbors. Show me a man or woman who loves birds and flowers, and I will show you one with benevolence and kindness in his heart. Friend Allen is death on the crow. Old Joe, to whom I read the article, and who is nearly as black as the doomed bird, says he is afraid color has influence to prejudice the gemman's mind—that he hates your crows for the same reason that some folks hates negroes—because they are black. It is a pity people are so set against eating this bird. Is that owing also to color? Because they are not bad eating; and if only in fashion for food, they would soon be exterminated.

Poultry Raising.—No. 7.—Cock-a-doodle-doo. I have trod on the toes of some of the young brood, and the old hen is after me in a terrible flutter. These poultry writers are as belligerent as they are long winded. Offer to touch a feather of a favorite breed, original or mongrel, and there is a cackle and a crow for a fight directly. As to being henpecked, I plead not guilty. If I had a wife, however, I suppose, like nine tenths of my fellow men, I should be. I am sorry my crowing hath lost its melody to the ear of this great henologist.

Basket Willow.—It is truly surprising so little attention is paid to the cultivation of this article. I have no doubt it may be grown with a profit equal to the statement of this writer, and sufficient for the demand of this country, and perhaps, exportation, as it can be grown upon land of little value for any other purpose. There is no danger of glutting the market.

Winter Apples for the South.—If you can recommend a kind of apples which will live and do well in the south, you may make your fortune, for the demand would be greater than you could supply.

Hungarian Cattle.—I suppose you publish a cut of this ugly brute just by way of contrast, to show off the beautiful Durhams and Devons to better advantage. I hope everything coming from Hungary is not as ill favored as this specimen. [No. The men and women of Hungary are uncommonly good looking.—Eds.]

Chemistry of Milk.—I have nothing to say about the chemical part of this article, but I beg leave to correct Dr. Emmons' statement in regard to the location of the milk sickness, which he says "is where the spurs of the mountains shut in the level areas of the deep land coves."

Perhaps it does abound in such situations; but it abounds more where mountains are among the things heard of, but never seen by the younger portion of the community. It abounds fearfully in the central part of Illinois—in the vicinity of Vandalia, for instance. Again, along the Wabash River, and in several places in the interior of Indiana and Ohio, where there are no mountains and scarcely any hills. As to the cause of milk sickness, my opinion is, it arises from the same cause which produces fever and ague—a poisonous miasma, which affects the human system in one way and the brute in another.

Vermont Cattle Show.—Here is an article after my own heart. What you see, Messrs. Editors, to commend, receives your just meed of praise. But you will not praise everything with fulsome laudation when you know it deserves censure. I hope such plain talk will do the Vermonters some good.

American Plows in Europe.—Laughable indeed, to think self-conceited John Bull should have to come to cousin Jonathan to teach him how to make a plow. There is a great change in the old fellow's tune since he sung his jeering notes over the "solitary waste" in the Crystal Palace. What with plows, reaping machines, locks, and long, low, black-looking schooners, he has had a reef or two taken in of his overweening conceit, and no doubt will keep a more civil tongue in his head until he forgets the sting of the threshing we have given him. We can send him several other things besides plows and pistols, which would astonish his burly proportions.

Scalding Hogs.—The method described is certainly far superior to the old way of heating water in kettles, and much less troublesome than by hot stones. The only objection to it will be the expense. If a portable heater could be contrived to set into any tub or cask, and heat the water, and then remove it to another, or till wanted again, it would be a very useful article upon every farm. Mr. Harvey calls his scalding tub, but describes it as a box, if I understand rightly. Until farmers are provided with better apparatus for heating water, I most earnestly recommend them to use hot stones, as the cheapest and easiest method within their reach.

New-York State Fair.—The same person who showed up the Vermont show, has unveiled a few of the hidden mysteries at Rochester, though far too sparing of justly-deserved censure. There are a good many things about these fairs every year, which ought to be blown

up as well as shown up; and I am glad to see your fearless remarks, so far as they go. The truth is, nearly all the papers deal in nothing but soft sawder, when speaking of the State Fair, so that a stranger does not know from the published accounts, whether it was good, bad, or indifferent.

Foreign News.—The Amende Honorable.—There is nothing like owning up when fairly cornered. But, although this is honorable, it strikes me it would have been much more so never to have published the base slander, which, being now refuted, compels the authors, very reluctantly, I have no doubt, to make the only amend in their power. And thus endeth all that I have to say of the contents of your October number.

REVIEWER.

STONE WALLS—TURNIPS—HOUSING CATTLE—DISHING COWYARDS.

This article has been some time on hand, being accidentally mislaid, or it would have had an earlier insertion. We shall leave Reviewer to defend himself in his own way.

In the June No. of the *Agriculturist*, Reviewer says:—"There is not a stone wall in New England but would be of more value to the owner, if buried beneath the surface, to drain the soil than it is above," &c.

With all deference to his experience, wisdom, and general sagacity, I think the remark is far too sweeping, not to say absurd. It is doubtless true, that on many farms, most of the small stones are best disposed of in draining low grounds; but to think of breaking stones of a ton weight and upwards, to the requisite size for draining, is hardly common sense.

There are many farms in New England that hardly need or admit of a single drain, and on which stones are so abundant as to be a burden.

Now, when the owner of one of these farms wishes to clear a piece of land to make it feasible for cultivation, shall he pile them in huge stacks, here and there, or leave them half piled, just as it happens, amongst which he dodges around as best he can; or shall he put them in straight, substantial walls as partition fences? Which would most disfigure the "landscape"? As to walls being an "eternal torment," I have known six persons tormented for want of them to one who has been troubled with them.

I have often known large varmints making depredations where they ought not, when a substantial stone wall would have prevented the mischief, and the frequent hard feeling consequent thereon.

I have a favorable idea of wire fences, where

other materials do not abound; but where labor is more plenty than cash, and stone more abundant than either—often requiring to be drawn scarcely two rods—I think it judicious to use the “abominable nuisances” for fence. It is true, stone walls sometimes fall by the action of the frost, but this depends much upon the skill displayed in building. On many farms the main concern must be to get something to keep soul and body together, “beautiful landscapes” being a secondary consideration.

I may be called the opposite of “hard-headed,” but the above are my views. Did “Old Joe” sanction the article from which I have quoted?

Turnips.—I wish to notice the remarks on turnips, in notes from a Kitchen Gardener's Memorandum Book, in the April No. The writer says, for “fodder, turnips are the least valuable of all the agricultural roots, and but little prized as a culinary vegetable.” Both parts of the statement are at fault, according to my notions. Turnips may be less nutritious than most other roots, but for animals that “part the hoof and chew the cud,” they are wholesome and valuable in connection with other food. They are by no means to be despised as fodder for oxen, milch cows or sheep; and as for their being but little prized as a culinary vegetable, if I should ever have the privilege of sitting down to a “boiled dish” at the writer's table, and the bowl of mashed and buttered turnips was wanting, I should make a dinner without it of course, though I do not at home, when I can get it. The writer of the notes considers the chief value of turnips in being a “secondary crop,” after the ground has been occupied by a more profitable growth. How much more profitable? Ground well prepared will, in a favorable season, produce 5 or 6 bushels of turnips to the square rod. Is not that sufficiently “profitable?”

Housing Cows in Summer.—Many have adopted the notion that they should be housed in all cases. Doubtless where there is a cellar, the manure, solid and liquid, is or may be best saved in this way. But in the absence of a cellar, it is better to let them lie out. Throw the droppings into one or two piles at the sides of the yard daily, and cover them with loam.

Let the yard be overspread with loam, or other substance to absorb the urine, and let it be occasionally turned over.

Dishing Cow Yards.—An idea is generally prevalent, that cow yards should be dishing, but I think about as much is lost as gained by such yards. In powerful rains the strength of manure is washed into a large puddle in the mid-

dle, to be wafted into the atmosphere by evaporation when the weather becomes fair. I have dipped up puddles formed in low places, to prevent loss. I prefer a yard nearly as level as may be.

J. W. PILLSBURY.

Milford, N. H., July 3, 1851.

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

The articles exhibited the present season were more select than usual, and a decided improvement in many things, particularly in the cutlery, implements for the farmers and mechanics. The horticultural department was one of the best displays we have yet seen at Castle Garden. In glass, silver plated, and other ware, we notice a higher finish and superior models.

The cattle show was more select than usual. Of the horses present, the best were of the famous Long Island trotting stock. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Hurlbut's Devons were very fine; while Messrs. Spencer, Morris, Beck, Haight, Slate, Bathgate, and others, were conspicuous with their noble shorthorns. Messrs. Prentice, Morris, and Tiffany, were well represented in Ayrshires, more particularly the former; and Mr. Colt, as usual, was strong in the rich cream, Alderneys and his lion-like Hungarians. Of working oxen, old Connecticut sent forth a goodly number of her beautiful red cattle. Sheep of the various breeds were there, with attendant shepherd dogs. As to grunTERS, the very perfect shape of the Essex black, and the white Suffolks, called forth high praise. The Berkshires looked well as usual; and the Lincolns stretched forth their long bodies and great height, to the admiration of all amateurs of large swine.

The poultry was uncommonly varied, and good in each kind; and we will at last confess to having seen there one short legged and good formed Shanghae hen.

Upon the whole, we think this fair of the Institute an improvement upon its predecessors; and it shows a continued progress of the arts and manufactures, stock breeding and farming, in the United States.

NATIONAL FLOWING MATCH.

This splendid affair came off at Bridgeport, Connecticut, early in September. P. T. Barnum, Esq., had, with great liberality offered premiums to the amount of \$200, open to the whole United States. There were twenty-nine entries. All the premiums were taken by those who used Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co's. celebrated eagle and Deep Tiller plows.

The Sentinel and Witness says—the scene

was an interesting and exciting one. Judge Huntington delivered an address on the ground, and he was followed by some quaint and appropriate remarks from Mr. Barnum, the president of the Agricultural Society, who, after the premiums had been announced, also on the ground, invited a large number to partake of a sumptuous dinner at his beautiful residence, Iranistan, a short distance only from the plowing ground.

The above plows, we see by the papers, Chas. A. Alsop, Esq., was so kind as to send us, were equally successful at the Middletown plowing match. They have also taken more premiums in Massachusetts and elsewhere this fall, than any other plows, although they had a stronger and more numerous competition than they have yet met with.

In our May number for the current volume, we published an elaborate article with illustrations, on Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co's. new improved Deep Tiller Plows for sod, stubble, flat, and lap furrows, and to this we would refer our readers for information upon this subject.

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1853.

If this be held in or near the city of New York, and be properly got up, we have no doubt it would net \$30,000 to the society, (enough to found an agricultural school, without calling upon a niggardly legislature for funds,) and be the most splendid affair ever yet known in America. This may sound like a large sum, and yet the result might come nearer to *fifty* than *thirty thousand dollars*.

In case the show be located here, it should be kept open at least ten days or a fortnight, and commence the first of September, when southern and western people are here in such large numbers. It should be advertised throughout North and South America, the West India Islands, and Europe, at least eight or nine months in advance, or a year would be still better.

And now what we want for this exhibition is, a PARK in the heart of the city of New York, like that of Hyde, Regents, or Victoria Park in London. It would be well also to have a Crystal Palace adorning it, where manufactures and arts of all kinds could be displayed, and the exhibition in this should be kept up at least six months.

What a stimulus such a show would give to improvements of all kinds in our country. Here would be a great city with steamers, ships, warehouses, and a few fine buildings, to look at, such as London and Liverpool alone could show;

here would be a beautiful model park, (that is if the people of the city, in the meanwhile, have taste and liberality enough to get one up,) for the study of landscape, gardeners; improved domestic stock of various kinds, with grain, vegetables and fruits for the farmer—flowers and shrubs for the ladies—manufactures of infinite variety for the artisan—and works of art for people of taste and fortune. But time and space do not permit us to dwell longer on this subject, hereafter we intend to touch upon it more at length.

Let the city of New York prepare the park ground, and build the crystal palace, and the corporation may clear *half a million of dollars* out of it, and the display of arts and manufactures; while the State Agricultural Society may net *fifty thousand dollars* by its cattle show. And all this would serve as a stimulus to every city in the Union, great and small, to go and do as near like it as possible.

What a multitude of strangers our country would draw to it by such a liberal and enlightened course of proceeding! What a prodigious increase it would give to its wealth! How greatly it would advance all that is refined, elegant and useful.

DOGS FOR DRAUGHT.

In the snowy regions of the north, dogs are much used for travelling and moving light loads over the snow. In Quebec and Montreal I have seen them harnessed to a little wagon or sled, going about the streets gathering soap and ashes, or for other purposes. The St. Paul Democrat, which is itself located pretty high up in Minesota, gave an interesting account last winter of the arrival of a dog train at that place from the Selkirk settlement, some 500 miles still farther north. This settlement is on the line between our territory and that of the British possessions. It contains about 7,000 inhabitants—French, English, Indian and mixed. Notwithstanding they are so far north, they raise large crops of barley, oats, spring wheat, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, beets, melons, onions, and all kinds of garden vegetables that grow in temperate latitudes. The corn crop is not relied upon—it is a precarious crop, though raised in every garden for table use.

They plant early in May. They usually have frosts till the first of June, and again in September. The season is long enough to fully mature the crops.

ONE of the New York fire bells weighs 21,612 pounds. It was cast by Hooper & Co., Boston

Ladies' Department.

LADY EXHIBITORS AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR.

THE very best specimen of barley is shown by Miss Emma R. Purse of Newark, N. J. It weighs 64 lbs. to the bushel. This lady shows some remarkably handsome potato-onions. Also, a sample of three kinds of wine in some dozen bottles, and we do not know how many other products of her farm.

Mrs. Sandford, of Sing Sing, shows a premium bushel of wheat, and Mrs. Harris, of Matteawan-point, a bag of beautiful rye.

Mrs. V. B. Robinson has a handsome lot of fruit, and several other ladies have done a noble part and showed they possess the true spirit of improving farmers. If some men were capable of such a thing, they certainly would be put to the blush by these exhibitors.

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

GATHERINGS.—Ribbands of any color should be washed in cold soapsuds and not rinsed. Iron them wet; and they will be stiff and nice as new, except some kinds of pink and blue, which will fade. These may be dyed to look as well as ever. Dip the blue in a little cold blue ink and water, and the pink in carmine, from a pink saucer, according to directions, and they will be perfectly restored.

Marble fire places should not be washed with suds, it will, in time, destroy the polish. After the dust is wiped off, rub the spots with a nice oiled cloth, then rub dry with a soft rag.

When you rub the knobs of your doors, use a peice of paste board as large as your two hands, with a small hole large enough to just encircle the knob in the center, and a slit in the paper to let it in. This slipped on, will keep off all soil from the paint, and is a nice way of doing it.

A CHEAP, HEALTHY, DELICIOUS SWEET MEAT.—Ladies do you know how to bake apples? Try this way and see what an acceptable dish you will make.—Take sour apples, those of a keen acid, and to every square tin filled with them, pour a teacupful of water and one of sugar. Bake them slowly until done. Eat them with cream and the juice which cooks from them. Nobody knows much of baking apples, who has not eaten them in this way. No quince, peach, pear nor plum preserves are equal to this simple dessert; and what adds to its value is, you can have it in the middle of winter, when summer fruits are among the things that were.

TO FATTEN POULTRY.—Ladies are all fond of fat pullets, ducks and turkeys, but do not always succeed well in their efforts at feeding them fat. Let me tell you. Shut them up in the dark—give them a little light two or three times a day, long enough to fill themselves with food, and then shut them up quite dark. Dr. Chambers in his work on corpulency, says:—Defective light is found to add much to the fattening powers of moderate diet. E. L. A. was employed in the cellars of a brewery, and, though strictly temperate, found his bulk becoming so great as to give him much alarm. He obtained a situation as clerk in the same establishment, and found the employment above ground cause a rapid reduction. He has since become a collecting-clerk, and is diminished still more.

CHARITY!—Greatest of all—the crowned queen among the virtues, the brightest handmaid of religion and love, has her abode on earth in the female heart. It is the plant, too, that groweth by cultivation, like a flower of the garden. May its roots strike deep, yet never reach a cold sub-soil. May we have to say to this goddess, in the person of every lovely female in our country, let us mark the splendor of thy presence by every desolate hearth, and by every mourner's couch. Teach us to throw thy mantle of compassion over the ignorant, the erring, and the guilty. Let thy influence soften every obdurate heart, and reclaim every vicious mind.

WASHING COMPOUND.—The recipe for making this compound is often sold for considerable sums of money. Dissolve 20 lbs. of hard-soap in one gallon of lye, over a slow fire, and let it boil, stirring it frequently. Now set aside to cool and then add one quart of spirits of turpentine and one pint of strong spirits of amonia. When cold cut it into bars, and wrap closely in papers and put away for use. It is far superior to common bar soap, and will save nearly one-half the labor of washing.

FLANNEL CAKES.—To a pint of flour, three tablespoonfuls of meal, a teaspoon of salt, add buttermilk enough to mix it to the consistency of cake batter; put in one tablespoonful of lard, and an egg. The last thing, just before baking, beat in a teaspoonful of soda, till very light—bake quick.

THE HIGH LAWS.—Whatever may be the customs and laws of a country, women always give the tone to morals.

Foreign Agricultural News.

By the steamer Pacific, we are in receipt of our foreign journals to October 15th.

MARKETS.—*Cotton*, a slight fall, *Flour and Wheat*, a small advance.

The Mineral Theory.—Mr. Lawes and Dr. Gilbert, have shown by several years of careful experiment, that the mineral theory of Leibig, which he put forth so confidently some time since, and still adheres to so pertinaciously, is founded in error. This is confirmed by Mr. Pusey and M. Dumas.

A Small Hen.—Mr. Morton states that he has a full-grown Sebright Bantam hen that weighs only a quarter of a pound. We should like to see this bird along side of a Cochin China of fourteen pounds. The difference is certainly remarkable.

Rape.—It was my practice to grow yearly a few acres of rape for sheep feed, on land intended for wheat; it answers two purposes—first, feed for sheep, and secondly, the wheat crop is much the better for it; but it requires caution on the part of the shepherd, or the sheep will be blown. I have generally had it mown in the morning, (and sometimes sprinkled with salt,) what was intended for the sheep to feed on in the evening, but I think with every attention there is some danger in feeding off rape—if the crop is good particularly.

Popularity of Agriculture.—Never at any time or in any country has agriculture afforded a wider or more important range of subjects for discussion than it does in this, at the present moment. It is economic, social, and political; scientific, practical, moral and educational; it is talked from the castle to the cottage, from the palace to the workhouse. It is clerical and yet secular; provincial, and yet fashionable. It has become common ground, on which all men meet.—*Ag. Gazette.*

Thistles.—At this time of the year the extraordinary number of thistles in full seed, in hedgerows, might lead a novice in agriculture to imagine the plant was a favorite, and useful in the economy of the farm, instead of being one of the most mischievous weeds under the sun, each seed having wings on which it is carried over the face of the country for miles. Thus the industrious man, who cleans his land, is at the mercy of the sloven. In a day's ride sufficient seed may be seen to sow a thousand acres, only waiting for a breeze to disperse it. John Bull abused the Americans for being behind the world at the exhibition. However, brother Jonathan can teach us how to build a yacht! If our countrymen will take a lesson from the Dutch and Belgians, on the art of keeping land clean, they will be wise. Where a weed flourishes corn will grow.—*Ag. Gazette.*

Feeding Calves.—Give them what is natural, viz: sweet milk; and as they advance, provide them some additional nourishing food, of rather a solid nature, but not too strong. When properly nursed and well kept, calves get strong before winter—the severity of which they are thus enabled to withstand, more especially if

descended from stocks with plenty of hair. Ill-fed calves, on the contrary, suffer severely in winter, and often fall victims to the parsimony of their owners. An idea is entertained by some breeders, that if all their cows produce calves, they are sure to be well paid; but one good calf is better than three bad ones. Many animals which would have made good oxen, heifers, or cows, are ruined when calves; they may recover, but not when young; so that the early maturity of such animals can never be attained. Every day's neglect in properly feeding calves, retards their maturity; while every day's good feeding will tell in the animal's favor. On such a bull-breeding farm as now described, nothing but the best of food must be supplied to the calves, otherwise they will cut a poor figure when exposed for sale.—*Dickens on the Breeding of Live Stock.*

Dahlia.—Every grower of this favorite flower will have noticed that some kinds possess a great advantage over others, both by expanding their blooms earlier, and also by throwing them out on extended footstalks from the foliage, so that they may be said to hang pendulous in the air. These advantages are possessed, in a remarkable degree by the Dahlia called Cleopatra; and I should be much obliged by your carefully naming other kinds that possess them in an equal degree. *Cartmel*; [The following throw their blooms well up above the foliage and are of good habit. There are but few kinds so tall as Cleopatra grown at the present day:

Black Prince, crimson	Mrs. Seldon, yellow
Box, scarlet	Negro, crimson
Charles Turner, crimson	Nepaulese Prince, crimson
Duke of Cambridge, lilac	Princes Radzivil, white and purple
Earl of Clarendon, orange	Roundhead, buff
Essex Triumph, maroon	Royal Chancellor, claret
Fearless, lilac	Seraph, orange
John Edwards, scarlet	Sir F. Bathurst, crimson
Leda, buff	Sulphurea pallida, sulphur
Model, brown	Sir R. Peel, scarlet
Mr. Palmer, salmon	Thames Bank Hero, crimson
Mr. Seldon, lilac	
Mrs. C. Bacon blush	

Ag. Gazette.

Cultivation of Wheat.—The Rev. Mr. Smith, sowed four acres of wheat at the rate of one peck of seed per acre, in three rows of a foot apart; then he left a space of three feet for fallow, and sowed three more rows a foot apart; then another space of three feet, and so continued through the field. He hoed the wheat in the spring between the rows, and stirred each three feet space of fallow between them, with a one horse scarifier, and got nearly 45 bushels of wheat per acre, weighing 61 pounds per bushel. He applied no manure; and expects by this system, to obtain a good average crop from year to year without the aid of any fertiliser, other than the atmosphere. The second year, each three feet space between the triple rows, is sowed with wheat, and the ground occupying the triple rows of wheat the preceeding year, is left fallow, to be stirred occasionally with the scarifier. And thus he alternates from year to year, obtaining larger crops per acre than those who manure expensively under the old system.

Editors' Table.

CONTINUATION OF OUR AGRICULTURAL PAPER.—We wish all our friends, and the public to be fully assured that our agricultural paper does not propose dying with the next number. It is simply undergoing a change—being for the present merged in the *Plow*, which commences the first of January next at FIFTY CENTS a year, of the same size and number of pages as the *Agriculturist*. We only wait the development of public opinion, to commence a higher and more advanced work, of 64 or more pages monthly, at a price that will pay the expenses of publication, when we shall hope to give the American public the fullest intelligence of the improvements in agriculture. At the present moment, opinion seems to demand the cheapest possible form of publication.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW-YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, VOL. X, FOR 1850.—We are at last favored with this long expected work; and the first question we have to ask is, why has it not made its appearance before? Has the State printer taken the liberty of making a public job of it, and got it out as best suited his own convenience and profit? Or has the copy been kept back from him by a snail-paced preparation? If the former, we beg to say, that if it be intended in Albany to make fat jobs out of the State Agricultural Society, in any way or form, we stand ready to hold up all participants in them to the indignation of every honest farmer; if the latter, then the Executive Committee should appoint capable assistants, with liberal pay, to prepare the copy sooner. It is too much to ask this of the Corresponding Secretary; his duties are already onerous enough without it; besides, he has been absent by State appointment, some months the past season, in England, doing good service at the World's Fair. Such delay in the Transactions, is a little too much like that of the last Patent Office Report, at Washington; which, if we remember right, finally appeared about *eighteen months or two years behind time*. Verily, we thought the report had gone to the tomb of the Capulets, not to the Congressional printing office. But it is thus they do such things at Washington; yet let us be careful how we copy them in Albany, unless it be intended hereafter to hand over the State Society to corrupt politicians.

The material of this volume is generally superior to its predecessors; but why should it be marred with such inferior paper as we find in our copy from pages 31 to 49, 161 to 189, 241 to 256, 369 to 401, 609 to 625, 657 to 673, and 721 to the end of the volume. We respectfully ask, would any reputable publishing house in this State, thus issue on its own account, any work from its press? Why could not the paper be uniform throughout the volume, and equal in its texture to that of the first 32 pages, and many of the others? We can distinguish the difference in quality by merely looking at the edges of the volume before us. We do not

know who is to blame in this matter, but it is so paltry, that we can scarcely refrain from expressing our indignation at what looks like an attempt from some quarter to *shave*.

Mr Dean's address as well as Professor Norton's, on agricultural education, are excellent. We hope the farmers will peruse these attentively, and no longer consent to occupy the humble position many of them are now obliged to, for want of a better education; and in this we mean, a proper agricultural education, not that of the lawyer, doctor, divine, or writer on belles lettres. If farmer's schools, the past half century, had been one tenth part as well endowed as colleges, the benefit to the rural population of this state would have been incalculable.

The trial of plows is an elaborate report, and so far as we can judge, was conducted with great patience, and with a strictly conscientious desire on the part of the committee to arrive at right conclusions; but we differ with them entirely in their observations upon "Centre Draft," or that any one manufacturer has so great, or indeed any superiority in the application of this principle. It is merely fanciful; and had there been other plows present, which we need not mention, we are persuaded the committee would have so seen it. We can only regret with them that more of our best manufacturers had not sent their plows forward for a trial.

Reports of some of the farms and particular crops, are good, and show forcibly how greatly the acreable products of the state could be increased, if due efforts—which a higher education would command—were made in this desirable way. We intend if possible, to give a few of them in our next number.

The Jersey cow, by Col. Le Couteur is capital; and right glad are we to see the "thirty-six points of perfection" laid down with illustrations. Here is a chart to go by, which we hope will do American breeders some good; and that they will now turn to the forty points which we got up for them on shorthorn cattle, in the fourth volume of the *Agriculturist*, and which Mr. L. F. Allen copied into his *American Herd Book*. And now if they will see that these, or some others—as much better as they may please to make them—are given by the Executive Committee as a guiding rule to the judges on stock, at the future cattle shows of the State Society, there will not be quite so much disappointment and grumbling at their decisions in future; nor will so many conceited men be ambitious to set themselves up as umpires of what they are too often so deplorably ignorant. By the way, that "old Jersey cow" is a *beauty*—that is a fact—and we intend to petition the obliging corresponding secretary, to allow her in contrast with the other "Beauty," to adorn the columns of our next number. So, gentle reader, please look out then for something marvellous to admire.

The various analyses of Dr. Salisbury, scattered throughout the volume, we shall have to put on our chemical spectacles and examine hereafter, when we

have more leisure than the single hour or two that we are taking for this brief article.

Now comes Mr. Delafield's survey of Seneca county. This is the gem of the work, and is nearer our idea of what an agricultural survey should be, than anything American which has met our eye. Perhaps we should have skipped over the historical part, and condensed the geological, and thus jumped at once into the more practical. But what would you call *practical*, we hear asked. Aye, indeed, what is it? Yet such long articles we are afraid will not be read by the common farmer. The ready response to this, doubtless is, then educate him to take an absorbing interest in doing so. Agreed; for that we will contend with all our hearts; and in the meanwhile tender Mr. Delafield our grateful thanks for the pleasure the perusal of his admirable article has given us.

Of some of the extracts from addresses and essays, read before the county societies, we think highly; of others, we must be excused for saying, that they are better fitted for the pages of a Ladies' Magazine, than those of the Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society. It is time we had done with such fiddle faddle generalities, and namby pamby sentimentalities, and oratorical fourth of July-ers. Let these be contrasted with Prof. Norton's excellent address before the Seneca-County Society. See page 585.

In the name of common sense, what has that long winded prize essay of *one hundred pages* on Agricultural Dynamics, to do in the Transactions? It may be very able for aught we know—(as we shall never attempt to read it)—but an Encyclopedia is the proper place for such articles. Such abstract essays are not transactions of the society, according to our understanding of the term. Then why lumber up the volume with them? If people desire to read such things, let them consult the works published on such subjects. We say all this with a perfectly kindly feeling towards the author of the essay before us; we beg him to believe that he is not personally included in our observations, we are only condemning the *principle* of the thing.

Regeneration of the potato, and the rot, have become a regular bore to the farming public. We believe the potato rot miasmatic. Lime, charcoal, and fresh wood ashes applied to the seed at the time of planting, as often recommended in our periodical, are the best restorers of the potato.

And now for a cut at a cut. Did the artist intend to guillotine Ruby, with a sharp triangle, plane her body down as smooth as a board, and turn her legs into knitting needles for the use of some good farmer's wife? We thought that this stiff pare-away artistic style, had been exhausted in the earlier volumes of the Transactions. Ruby is a superb cow, in living flesh and blood, and we consequently the more regret to see her caricatured in this way. Compare this cut—for a portrait we will not call it—with that of the fat cow Grace, the Hungarian, and Jersey cattle, and see how much more natural these are.

There, gentle reader, we have done with this portly volume of Transactions, for which, no doubt, you are

very glad—and so are we; hoping that the next will appear in better time, on more uniform paper, and shorn of all that is superfluous and irrelevant. We will then do our best to commend it in toto, and send it home to the bosom of every farmer's family in the state.

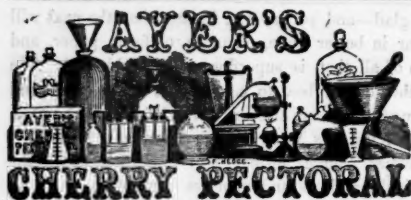
THE AMERICAN MUCK BOOK:—Treating of the nature, properties, sources, history, and operations of all the principal fertilizers and manures in common use; with directions for the preparation, preservation, and application to the soil and to crops; as combined with the leading principles of practical and scientific agriculture. By D. J. Browne. Published by C. M. Saxton, 152 Fulton street, New York. Pages 429—price one dollar.

We do not hesitate to say that this is the most complete and comprehensive work yet published in America on the subject of manures, nor do we know of its equal in Europe. Mr. Browne has been several years collecting and arranging the materials for his Muck Book, during which time he has ransacked every possible source for information on the subject of which it treats. He has quoted for his motto, the old saying, that "muck is the mother of the meal chest;" he might, with equal truth, have added another, namely—"muck is the mother of money." Muck, or in other words, any kind of fertilizer, is a farmer's mine of wealth; and he cannot be too industrious in digging up, collecting, saving, and properly applying such to his land. The more muck or manure, the better the crops; and the consumption of these, makes the muck heap again, of an increased size.

The arrangement of this Muck Book strikes us highly favorably. First, we have gaseous and imponderable manures; second, fossil, saline, and mineral manures; third, vegetable manures; fourth, animal manures; fifth, liquid manures; sixth, compost and homestead manures; seventh, special manures. All these are treated in a plain, practical, comprehensive manner, and in a style at once clear and brief. We do not know what more the farmers can desire; and if this work does not have a large sale now, we shall think they care very little for the improvement of their land, growing good crops, and filling their purse with money.

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